FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-228
Monday
28 November 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-228 *28 November 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Jordan, Israel Establish Diplomatic Relations *[Amman Radio]* 1
Peres Opposes EU Lifting Arms Embargo on Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Butrus-Ghali Views Somalia, Bosnia, Other Issues *[Cairo International]* 1
'Abd-al-Majid, Iraqi Envoy Discuss Embargo *[INA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on Unity, Iran, Jerusalem *[Jericho VOP]* 2
'Arafat Aide Warns Against 'Islamic Plot' *[Paris LIBERATION 25 Nov]* 5
Hamas' Ghawshah Denies Iranian Involvement in Gaza *[Tehran Radio]* 6
Memorial Rally for 'Imad 'Aql Held in Gaza 6
Preparations Detailed *[AFP]* 6
Jerusalem Radio: Over 30,000 in Attendence 7
Al-Quds Radio: 'More Than 70,000' Attend *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 7
'Imad 'Aql 'Martyr of Palestine' *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Unity, Dialogue With Fatah Urged *[Jericho VOP]* 7
PA's Abu-Zayidah Comments *[Jerusalem TV]* 7
Hamas Leader Views Self-Rule, Operations *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 28 Nov]* 8
PFLP-GC Demands Departure of "Arafatist' Clique *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 11
AL-QUDS, AL-NAHAR Banned in Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Butrus-Ghali Arrives for Two-Day Visit 12
Makes Statement to Press *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Zeroual Receives Butrus-Ghali *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Butrus-Ghali Interviewed After Talks *[Algiers TV]* 12
Butrus-Ghali Visits Smara *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Reaction to Outcome of Rome Talks Continues 13
FIS Leader Ait Ahmed Interviewed *[Rome L'UNITA 23 Nov]* 13
Attaf Answers Correspondents' Questions *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Minister on Need for Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 15
HAMAS, Other Parties Reject Communique *[Algiers TV]* 15
Further on Parties' View of Communique *[Algiers TV]* 15
FFS Leader Praises Party Activists, Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Sifi Talks With Berber Cultural Movement *[Algiers Radio]* 16
FIS Claims Imam Tortured to Death *[Paris International]* 16
FIS Blames France for Dialogue Failure *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Nov]* 16
Security Forces Kill 49 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Security Forces Claim Successes *[Algiers TV]* 17

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Tour of European Countries *[MENA]* 17
Musa Comments on Visit With Saudi Counterpart *[Cairo Radio]* 19

Musa Interviewed on Ties With Israel *[MA'ARIV 25 Nov]* 19
Obstacles to Trade With Israel Viewed *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 19 Nov]* 22
Paper Criticizes Rabin's Remarks on Golan *[MENA]* 23
Donor States Urged To Honor 'Palestine' Pledges *[MENA]* 23
Musa on Palestinians, Peace, 'Terrorist Acts' *[AFP]* 23
Mubarak Speaks With al-Asad, Turkey's Demirel *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Article Rebuts U.S. Charges on Libyan Trade *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 21 Nov]* 24
U.S. Republican Policy 'Serious Change' *[AL-AKHBAR 21 Nov]* 25
Writer Slams U.S. for Jerusalem Embassy Site *[AL-AHRAM 19 Nov]* 26
Shaykh al-Ghazali Assailed for Inciting Violence *[AL-'ARABI 21 Nov]* 26
'Terrorist Leader' Killed, 3 Arrested in Raid *[MENA]* 27

Sudan

Rise in Army Casualties, Discharges Reported *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Nov]* 27
Radio Criticizes Mubarak Visit to Europe *[Omdurman Radio]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Foreign Minister on GCC Iraq Policy *[Riyadh Radio]* 29
GCC Chief Discusses Upcoming Summit in Bahrain *[WAKH]* 29
Says Iraq's Intentions Should Be 'Tested' *[KUNA]* 29
GCC Council Hails 'Constructive' Russian Role *[WAKH]* 30
GCC Interior Ministers Begin Session in Riyadh *[SPA]* 30
Saudi Minister on 'Terrorism,' Labor *[SPA]* 31

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Says Government Aims To Serve Citizens *[SPA]* 31

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Carries Out State Functions 32
Allocates Funds for Marsh Arabs *[AL-THAWRAH 13 Nov]* 32
Presides Over Officials' Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Orders Funds for Irrigation Project *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Visits Textile Industries Exhibition *[INA]* 32
RCC Discusses Sanctions, 'Intransigent' U.S. Stand *[INA]* 32
RCC Decree Links, Merges State Organizations *[AL-THAWRAH 13 Nov]* 33
Ba'th Party Official Reportedly Kidnapped, Killed *[AFP]* 33
Talabani, Barzani Chair PUK-KDP Talks *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 34

ISRAEL

'Terrorist' Shooting Attack Reported Near Hebron 35
One Killed, Another Wounded *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Rabin: Radical Muslims Behind Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Hamas Claims Responsibility *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Al-Quds Radio on 'Heroic Armed Operation' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 35
Baraq: Number, Quality of Attacks To Rise *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Peres Opposes Death Sentence for 'Terrorist' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Sarid To Brief Rabin, Peres on Visit to Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Peres Departs for Donors Meeting, To Meet 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
IDF, PA, Opposition Oppose 3-Day IDF Pullout *[MA'ARIV 27 Nov]* 36
Rabin Denies Proposal on IDF Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Rabin Sees 'Tough Struggle' on Military Aid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Rabin, Namir Have 'Sharp' Words in Cabinet Session *[HA'ARETZ 28 Nov]* 37

JORDAN

Prince Hasan on Peace Process, Syria, Hamas *[AL-DUSTUR 26 Nov]* 39
On Relations With Israel *[Paris LE SOIR 25 Nov]* 40
Al-Majali Views 'Gaps Between Arab States' *[Amman Radio]* 41

LEBANON

'Arafat Supporters, Opponents Clash in Refugee Camp 43
Opponents Recapture 6 Positions *[VOL]* 43
Over 10 Dead, 25 Wounded *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Al-Hirawi: Army Will Halt Clashes *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Hizballah Said Ready To Exchange Prisoners With Israel 43
Shaykh Sha'ban Criticizes Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Nasrallah: Group Not Holding Ron Arad *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Clerics Denounce 'Arafat, Gaza 'Massacre' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Authorities Arrest Deputy Shamas, Supporters *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Argentine Official Denies Lebanese Involved in Bombing *[Beirut Radio]* 45

SYRIA

Radio: 'Blackmail' Cannot Change Government Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Papers Say Israel Maneuvering 'To Avoid Peace' *[AFP]* 46
Paper: 'Separate Deals' Not Part of Full Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Minister Urges Removal of Israel's Nuclear Arms *[MENA]* 47
Radio Reports Establishment of Jordan-Israel Ties *[Damascus Radio]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Warring' Sides To Attend Tehran Peace Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Sayyaf Group Commander Killed in 'Conspiracy' *[Message of Freedom]* 48

Iran

Relations with Kuwait To Be Enhanced *[KUNA]* 48
RESALAT Rebuts SALAM on U.S. Ties 48
Paper Cites U.S. Democrats' 'Blunders' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 16 Nov]* 50
Foreign Media's Propaganda Denounced *[KEYHAN 21 Nov]* 51
Yazdi Urges a 'Wipe Out' of Western Influence *[IRNA]* 51
EU Lifting of Syrian Arms Embargo Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 51
TEHRAN TIMES Condemns UNSC Inaction on Bosnia *[IRNA]* 52
Spokesman Urges Immediate Cease-Fire in Bihac *[IRNA]* 52
Madrid Embassy Denies 'Arafat's Accusations *[IRNA]* 53
'Arafat Said Controlled by 'Zionist Masters' *[IRNA]* 53
Mohtashami Cited on Avenging Gaza Incident *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 20 Nov]* 54
Basij Week: Celebration of Volunteer Forces 54
'Huge' Urban Exercises Conducted *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Maneuvers' Importance Viewed *[IRNA]* 55
Forces Termed 'Sacred Sapling' *[IRNA]* 55
Military Invasion Said Not Possible *[IRNA]* 55
Officials Comment on MKO 'Agents' Movements *[IRNA]* 55
KDP Radio Says Kurdish Cleric Assassinated *[IRNA]* 55
Opposition Forecasts New Round of Repression *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 56
Deputy Views Correct Selection of Marja'iyat *[RESALAT 17 Nov]* 56
Opposition on Grand Ayatollah's Successor *[Voice of Mojahed]* 57

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Views Nuclear Danger *[London THE TIMES 26 Nov]* 57

Sri Lanka

LTTE Responds To Cease-fire Offer *[Colombo International]* 59
LTTE Releases Two Additional Policemen *[LANKAPUVATH]* 59

Jordan, Israel Establish Diplomatic Relations

JN2711094194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Nov 94

["Text" of joint statement by the Governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel establishing diplomatic relations, issued in Amman and Tel Aviv "at noon" on 27 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] Proceeding from the peace treaty signed between them on 26 October 1994, and specifically from Article 5 of the treaty, and out of their desire to build and promote relations of friendship and cooperation, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Governemt of the State of Israel have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today. On this occasion, both countries would like to express the hope that the establishment of these relations will strengthen and contribute to entrenching the pillars of peace, and to unleashing and promoting the areas of bilateral cooperation in a manner that will serve the interests of both countries and the horizons of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

The two countries will exchange ambassadors as soon as possible.

A royal decree was issued endorsing a decision made by the Council of Ministers on 19 November 1994 to establish full diplomatic relations between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the State of Israel at the ambassadorial level as of 27 November 1994, as recommended by the minister of state for foreign affairs and in accordance with Article 5 of the peace treaty between the two countries on the establishment of full diplomatic and consular relations between them on the level of resident ambassadors within one month of the exchange of the ratification documents of the peace treaty.

Peres Opposes EU Lifting Arms Embargo on Syria

TA2811120594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first meeting of the trilateral Israel-Jordan-EU [European Union] committee took place this morning. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordan's Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani attended the meeting. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that it was decided at the meeting to set up a steering committee to deal with building dams and the Jordan Valley's water problems.

Minister Peres said that Israel opposes the EU's decision to lift the arms embargo on Syria and that such a decision can come only after Syria joins the negotiations with Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Butrus-Ghali Views Somalia, Bosnia, Other Issues

NC2611090794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali by Ramadan Husayn; place and date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] Dr. Butrus-Ghali, we welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Butrus-Ghali] Thank you.

[Husayn] I start this dialogue with a question about the nature of your mission in the Arab Maghreb.

[Butrus-Ghali] There is a resolution issued by the Security Council which stipulates holding a referendum in the Western Sahara to learn the opinion of the people there regarding their future. Do they wish to join the Kingdom of Morocco, or do they want their independence? We have started the necessary measures to hold this referendum. I am visiting the region to follow up on these latest measures that have been taken. I am very hopeful that we will hold this referendum in the coming months and that this referendum will lead to a peaceful settlement of that issue and that peace will prevail in this region.

[Husayn] Dr. Butrus-Ghali, in this regard, do you intend to meet any officials from the Polisario Front?

[Butrus-Ghali] I will hold contacts with the leader of the Polisario Front in the region of Jebel Tandouft N'Oufetki. After that, I will hold contacts with Moroccan leaders.

[Husayn] Dr. Butrus-Ghali, you recently held a meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the Italian capital, Rome. Could we learn about the nature of this meeting and what happened during it?

[Butrus-Ghali] The president received me during this meeting. I explained to him the latest developments or the latest UN stands regarding international issues, whether on Yugoslavia, or the latest developments in Mozambique or Angola. I thanked the president for the presence of Egyptian forces in Mogadishu or in Sarajevo. The presence of these Egyptian forces is a positive contribution on Egypt's part for the sake of entrenching peace in the world and bolstering the UN stand and joint action within the UN framework.

[Husayn] Dr Butrus-Ghali, the international organization is playing a big and ever-increasing role in many regional and international issues. However, I would like to pause at the issues in the Arab world and start with the Gulf region. Is the siege on Iraq expected to be lifted

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

soon, particularly since it has recognized Kuwait's sovereignty in accordance with the Security Council resolution on this matter?

[Butrus-Ghali] Such a decision is the UNSC's specialization. The UNSC will meet in the coming months to discuss the situation. I cannot answer this question because it falls within the realm of the UNSC.

[Husayn] Let us move to another issue dealing with events in Somalia. The UNSC recently decided to withdraw the UN forces operating there by the end of March 1995. Does this mean that the international organization is withdrawing from Somalia and abandoning the country to its fate?

[Butrus-Ghali] No. It only means that the forces will withdraw, but the special representative of the secretary general will stay there. The diplomatic missions whose objective is to realize a peaceful settlement will continue to operate. The humanitarian organizations will offer even more aid. This is as though the United Nations will stay in Somalia, and if in the future there is a need for the return of some forces, the United Nations will discuss this topic. However, one could say that the military organ has withdrawn, but the diplomatic organ will stay, along with those organizations that offer humanitarian aid.

[Husayn] Is there an intention to hold contacts on a high level through your envoy Mr. (Victor Griho) with the leaders of the Somali factions to hold a conference for national reconciliation?

[Butrus-Ghali] There are continuous contacts between the envoy and other groups, whether in Mogadishu, Addis Ababa, or Nairobi. In addition, there is close cooperation between the United Nations on the one hand, and the OAU on the other hand. In addition, there are continuing contacts between the United Nations on the one hand, and the Arab League and Islamic Conference Organization on the other.

[Husayn] If we can address another issue of interest to the region here, the role of the United Nations in the Bosnian crisis. The United Nations is being accused—may I say this now—in this crisis of not having intervened effectively to guarantee the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, particularly to protect the safe havens. As you know, the Serbian forces have infiltrated the safe haven around the Bihac enclave. What is your response to this issue?

[Butrus-Ghali] There are continuing contacts between the United Nations and the concerned parties. I have contacted the concerned parties. I am also in continuous contact with the Bosnian leaders in Sarajevo. We have great hopes of reaching an agreement to stop the fighting.

[Husayn] Dr. Butrus-Ghali, why does the United Nations not issue orders to NATO to carry out more effective strikes against the Serbs?

[Butrus-Ghali] This falls within the realm of the Security Council and NATO. Agreement should be reached between the Security Council and NATO to take additional measures.

[Husayn] As regards the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, what are the most recent efforts of the United Nations in this regard?

[Butrus-Ghali] There is a special representative from the United Nations operating there. He is Mahmoud Mistiri, who is the former Tunisian foreign minister. We are in constant contact with him. He has a diplomatic delegation working with him there to find a peaceful settlement among the warring sides in Kabul and Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid, Iraqi Envoy Discuss Embargo

JN2311220294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met here today with Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League.

Talks addressed a host of current Arab issues, chief among which were the embargo clamped on Iraq, inter-Arab ties, and the means to promote Arab solidarity to counter the challenges facing the Arab nation.

In a statement to reporters at the end of the meeting, Dr. Nabil Najm called upon the Arab states to make effective moves to reactivate the Joint Arab Defense Pact and support Iraq's call for the immediate revocation of the unfair sanctions, particularly since Iraq has exposed the pretexts the United States and Britain have used to perpetuate the sanctions.

Najm added: Given the fact that Iraq has complied with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and underscored its commitment to achieve peace, security, and stability in the region, the UN Security Council must fulfill its obligations toward Iraq in compliance with the rules of international law and in implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 by making urgent efforts to lift the sanctions and revoke the oil embargo.

The Iraqi diplomat regretted the fact that some non-Arab states, such as Russia, France, the PRC, Turkey, and (?Spain) are demanding an end to the unfair sanctions, whereas the positions of some Arab states have failed to live up to the true pan-Arab sentiments, as reflected in the Arab League Charter [words indistinct].

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on Unity, Iran, Jerusalem

JN2511123494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0840 GMT 25 Nov 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz in the studio—live]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] We say good morning to our Palestinian people, and we tell brother leader Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat]: A safe return and good morning.

['Arafat] Good morning to you, Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] Good morning, and congratulations...

['Arafat, interrupting] I have missed you. It is a long time since I have seen you.

[Al-Qazzaz] May God bless you. In any case, we are always with you as you are with us.

['Arafat] We are in the same trench at the forefront of the march, Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] God willing, we carry out our duties and we are the soldiers in service of our Palestinian people, brother Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] From al-Karamah to Mount Hermon, Suez, Beirut, southern Lebanon, Fatah land, and the homeland.

[Al-Qazzaz] You have become the symbol of world peace by winning two peace prizes—the Nobel Prize and the Prince of Asturias Prize.

['Arafat] Yusuf, do not do an injustice. It is not me who is the symbol. The Palestinian people are the symbol of peace, the people who have forged this miracle.

[Al-Qazzaz] But you are the symbol of the Palestinian people.

['Arafat] No. I am just a potential martyr within this Palestinian people.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, may God grant you long life. We congratulate the Palestinian people on your being awarded the most important Spanish prize and the Nobel Prize. On this occasion, what do you want to tell our Palestinian people?

['Arafat] I would like to say that this prize is for the Palestinian people, for the martyrs of the Palestinian people with Martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] at their head, for the detainees of the Palestinian people with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin at their head, and for the wounded, and for the female detainees of the Palestinian people with at their head 'Abir...

[Al-Qazzaz, interrupting] Yes, 'Abir, [word indistinct]

['Arafat] And for the children of the stones, and for every man, woman, child, and elderly person inside and outside the homeland. The people are those who concluded the peace of the brave. I am not the one who concluded this peace. This is the Palestinian people who have forged a miracle and managed to protect themselves in the midst of the international storms and who succeeded in confirming their identity. The Palestinian people's struggle has not stopped from 1917 until now. There was one convoy [of martyrs] after the other, one battle after the other, and one confrontation after the other, and Jihad after Jihad until the Palestinian people established themselves on the political and geographical map of the Middle East, brother Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, we are now on the map of the homeland, and during the stage of construction and peace...

['Arafat, interrupting] In the stage of building the homeland and the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital.

[Al-Qazzaz] We receive hundreds of calls greeting you and voicing their support for the wise Palestinian command headed by you.

['Arafat] May God bless you, Yusuf. The most important thing is that our people become aware of these conspiracies that could take place. You notice that every time we come closer... [pauses] When we started to assume power and prerogatives in the West Bank, problems started. It seems as if there is a power that seeks to prevent the Palestinian people from reaping the fruits of their struggle, their jihad, and the price paid by their martyrs, wounded, and detainees. May God forgive them.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. President, you know that these conspiracies will not stop so long as we are on the right course?

['Arafat] I would like to tell you something. While Islam was at its glory, a faction departed from it, these were the outlaws. It is true they are Muslims but they are outlaws. That's why I ask God to guide my people as they do not know. I repeat the holy verses: Our Lord, decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide [Koranic verse].

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, you told us that national unity should always be our option...

['Arafat, interrupting] Listen, listen, the Palestinian people are a giant. How much suffering and tragedies have they endured? But, they are a giant people. They are like a mountain that cannot be shaken by the wind. This people is greater than their present leadership, their past leadership, or the leadership that will come later. This people is a mighty people, Yusuf, or didn't you know this?

[Al-Qazzaz] Yes, and it is our right to...

['Arafat, interrupting] The Prophet said: Part of my nation still abides by religion, is known to its enemies, is not harmed by those who are hostile to it and God will grant it victory. The Prophet was told: O messenger of God, who are they and where are they? The Prophet said: In Jerusalem, and the holy places. The prophet added: They will continue to stand fast until judgment day. Our destiny is to stand fast. This is the land of steadfastness, Yusuf. This is the first of the two qiblahs [Jerusalem] and the third holiest mosque, the land from where Prophet

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, ascended to Heaven. It is also the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him.

[Al-Qazzaz] It has a special place in the hearts of all the Palestinians, Muslims, Christians, and Jews as you said in the speech at the ceremony when you received the Prince of Asturias prize.

['Arafat] Of course. To be a real Muslim you must believe in Judaism. To be a real Muslim too, you must believe in Christianity. We have a divine message to convey. It is found in the Torah, the Bible, the Koran, and the Psalms.

[Al-Qazzaz] Some of the brothers may have noticed that many of the telephone calls have come from Jerusalem, greeting you and emphasizing that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state.

['Arafat] I am the one who greets the Jerusalem inhabitants, kisses them on their foreheads, and tells them: Patience and we seek support from God. The most important thing is that they continue to cling to every inch of Jerusalem's soil.

[Al-Qazzaz] Yes, yes. In fact, a march similar to the one held in Gaza took place here in Jericho. This march raised one slogan: We declare allegiance to you, Abu-'Ammar; and we also stress Palestinian national unity...

['Arafat, interrupting] Once again, the most important thing is to say: We declare allegiance to Palestine, the Palestinian blood, the Palestinian martyrdom, the Palestinian jihad, and the Palestinian struggle, and the Palestinian national unity...

[Al-Qazzaz, interrupting] It is our right to ...

['Arafat, continuing] Yusuf, despite all that has happened--I know that there is an outside force behind it, and I have not yet said everything I know—[pauses] regrettably, [former Iranian Interior Minister] Mohtashemi yesterday revealed the whole issue. Do you know who Mohtashemi is?

[Al-Qazzaz] He is the interior minister...

['Arafat, interrupting] Do you remember his visits to us in Beirut where we used to open our homes and offices to him? Mohtashemi has revealed the role [of Iran]. Another one, named Abu-Ghawshah, or [Ibrahim] Ghawshah [official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan] in Amman has further revealed this role. Birds of a feather flock together. However, I tell them: We patiently seek help from God. The march will proceed.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, we did not accept interference in our Palestinian decisionmaking from our brothers, so how can we accept interference from others who are not our brothers?

['Arafat] Listen, I would like to tell you something. We fought for our independent Palestinian decisionmaking. We will not accept subservience to, or the trusteeship of, any party, trumpet, or person. The Palestinian people are above all trusteeships. Had they accepted trusteeships, their cause would have ended long ago.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, we always wager on our people's awareness.

['Arafat] A powerful people exists in it [reference to the occupied territories].

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, allow me—in the name of all colleagues in the Radio and Television Corporation, who are your children—to say to you: Congratulations on the Prince of Asturias Prize and also on the Nobel Prize. We have the right to rejoice because, as you said, they have honored you. We say that they have honored you, and you say they have honored the Palestinian people.

['Arafat] I would like to say something: I shake your hand, and I want our radio to be loud, as usual. It has always been a good radio.

[Al-Qazzaz] With your moral support, we always carry out our duty, brother Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] God (?bless) you. I am sure that, exactly like all Palestinian revolution radios, this radio will loudly raise its voice from the homeland.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, thank you. We always salute you. We, along with our hearts and minds, are always with you, accompanying you in the march of construction and peace. In fact, we have received telephone calls and messages from the Palestinian people's sons who wish to see you soon.

['Arafat] Listen, Yusuf. Your radio's transmission may be weak. It is, however, strong with both faith and what you broadcast. We are with each other, God willing, so we will perform prayers in Jerusalem.

[Al-Qazzaz] God willing, our voice will cover larger areas, brother Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] God willing.

[Al-Qazzaz] Would you like to address anything else to the sons of our Palestinian people?

['Arafat] I would like to say: God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden (of paradise): They fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: A promise binding on Him in truth, through the Law, the Gospel, and the Qur-an. And who is more faithful to his Covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: That is the achievement supreme. [Koranic verse]

I also say: Let everyone recall the al-Hudaybiyah truce [between the Prophet Muhammad and people of Mecca]. 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab [the second orthodox caliph] one

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

day called it a humiliating truce. He told Prophet Muhammad: How can we accept humiliation in our religion? The prophet said: Keep silent, 'Umar, because you do not understand things. The prophet imposed the al-Hudaybiyah truce despite all its problems. I, however, invoke God to guide my people who are aware.

I also say: Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that his light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest (it). [Koranic verse]

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, God is always with you, and you are with your people. As you have always been with your people, this people have the right to say to you: Congratulations, you are our leader and symbol, and the one who taught us to safeguard the Palestinian national unity.

['Arafat] National unity is deeply embedded in every Palestinian child, man, and woman.

[Al-Qazzaz] National unity is also our program in terms of construction and the daily work of the Palestinian people. We hope to meet with you in every city, village, and camp here in the West Bank, exactly as our people met with you in Jericho and Gaza.

['Arafat] I would like to tell our people not to listen to the lies fabricated by this or that party. Palestine is greater than those who try to harm it.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, 50,000 people participated in the Gaza march, and 15,000 participated in the Jericho march.

['Arafat, laughing] Only 50,000? You must be kidding, Yusuf! Some 80,000-100,000 people participated. The Israeli radio said 3,000 people participated, and you say 50,000. You must be kidding, Yusuf!

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, at any rate, our Palestinian people are always vigilant, and their awareness was not undermined, unlike to others. This people, with their marches, messages, and cables addressed to the Voice of Palestine, and through us to you...

['Arafat, interrupting] Fatah was the party that fired the first bullet. It was also the party that hoisted the first Palestinian flag on the first-ever liberated Palestinian territory. This was in accordance with the resolution passed by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in 1974, which provides for establishing a national authority on any part of Palestinian soil which is liberated or from which the Israelis withdraw. Did we forget this resolution?

Fatah is on its way to implementing the remainder of the national program which was endorsed by the PNC. Together until victory, God willing.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you, Your Excellency President brother Abu-'Ammar. We always uphold our Palestinian idea; namely the idea of construction, peace, and national unity.

['Arafat] Thank you. Together until victory, God willing.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you, Your Excellency the President. Thank you brother Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] Thank you, dear.

[Al-Qazzaz] Until we hear from you again.

'Arafat Aide Warns Against 'Islamic Plot'

BR2511134794 Paris LIBERATION in French 25 Nov 94 p 15

[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, general coordinator for Civilian Authorities, by Christophe Boltanski; place and date not given—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamil al-Tarifi, Palestinian general coordinator for Civilian Authorities, who is close to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, has just signed research contracts in Paris with six French companies. He holds Hamas responsible for the new outbreak of violence in Gaza.

[Boltanski] Is the Gaza Strip on the brink of civil war?

[Al-Tarifi] No. Our people are capable of overcoming this crisis. All factions are stressing the need to safeguard Palestinian unity. But we are determined to implement the Oslo agreements in full because we think it is the only way of achieving independence. We will not allow anybody to hamper the peace process.

[Boltanski] On Monday [21 November] Fatah supporters demonstrated with arms. All the right ingredients for more violence seem to be present...

[Al-Tarifi] If weapons are circulating freely in Gaza, that is the Israelis' fault. We had exposed the threat which this arsenal would present to the peace process even before the Cairo agreement (on autonomy) was implemented. The Fatah militants merely demonstrated their support for the Palestinian Authority. They will defend the peace process against anybody.

[Boltanski] Will you disarm all these militias?

[Al-Tarifi] The Authority started to disarm all the factions well before these events. But it will take time.

[Boltanski] Do you think that responsibility for the massacre rests with Hamas?

[Al-Tarifi] Hamas and the countries which support it have tried to destroy the peace process and provoke a civil war. Just recently, another oppositionist—Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command—said in an interview that clashes were going to break out in Palestine. This man is supported by Iran and by other countries.

[Boltanski] Are you therefore exposing an Islamic plot?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, Friday's incidents were planned. They were trying to kill a large number of people and, with them, the whole peace process.

[Boltanski] Do you still hope to persuade Hamas to take part in the elections?

[Al-Tarifi] We suggested that it take part in the elections and join the national authority. Our offer still stands. We want to have elections as quickly as possible because it is then that we will prove that this authority is supported by the vast majority of the population.

[Boltanski] What are your proposals for overcoming the present crisis?

[Al-Tarifi] We are in favor of political dialogue, but we will not allow anybody to put themselves forward as a parallel authority. There will only be one authority—the Palestinian National Authority. We will not allow militias to impose their will on the ground, as they have done in Lebanon and elsewhere. We must then speed up the implementation of the peace process. Finally, all the donor countries must do all they can to help Yasir 'Arafat and the authority to transform the daily lives of the Gaza inhabitants.

[Boltanski] International aid is still slow in coming.

[Al-Tarifi] Two weeks ago, we still had not received the money intended for our police. The donor countries are making more and more promises, and then criticize us for our lack of organization to justify their delay. When they come to Gaza, they admit that the structures intended to receive the aid are in place. But once they return home, they start to criticize our administrative shortcomings again. It is endless. If they do not pay the promised money, the whole peace process will be in danger.

[Boltanski] Are you satisifed with French cooperation in this sphere?

[Al-Tarifi] My talks with the French finance minister were very fruitful. We signed several research contracts with French companies. We want France to participate in the building of a fishing port in Gaza, an airport, and thousands of dwellings.

[Boltanski] What do you think of Jerome Monod's [chairman of la Lyonnaise des Eaux] rather uncomplimentary remarks about Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tarifi] I cannot understand how that man was able to make such a statement. Does he represent the Israeli Likud in France? How can a businessman speak in that way of one of his clients? Following that affair, Yasir 'Arafat decided to cancel the whole contract which had been concluded with la Lyonnaise des Eaux.

Hamas' Ghawshah Denies Iranian Involvement in Gaza

LD2511170994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Yasir 'Arafat's claims and accusations of Iranian involvement in the Gaza incidents are an effort by the self-rule authority to divert public opinion.

He added that through these baseless claims 'Arafat intends to conceal last Friday's crime committed by the PLO police.

Memorial Rally for 'Imad 'Aql Held in Gaza

Preparations Detailed

NC2611111594 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 26 Nov 94

[By Sakher Abu Eloun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 26 (AFP)—Islamic militant leaders called thousands of supporters out for a rally on Saturday [26 November] as the fundamentalists and Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority agreed on ways to avoid violence.

Militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas have been warned against firing weapons into the air, wearing army-style fatigues and against turning the rally into a military parade, one leader told AFP.

"Hamas leaders signed a written promise not to carry guns or make speeches against the authority," said Ghazi al-Jibali, chief of civilian police.

The police, whose clashes with Hamas supporters on November 18 left 12 people dead and 200 wounded, meanwhile agreed not to deploy their men close to the rally which is to be held in a soccer field in Gaza City.

The event had been planned for Friday, but Hamas said it was delayed because of heavy rainstorms. It is to commemorate 'Imad 'Aql, a Hamas fighter killed here one year ago by the Israeli army during the uprising.

The rally is seen as the first big test of a peace accord reached between Hamas and 'Arafat's PLO Fatah faction on Wednesday.

It called for a halt to street rallies by armed supporters in a bid to prevent a repeat of the worst violence in the Strip since the launch of Palestinian self-rule in May.

"Preparations began early this morning and we have taken out ads in the newspapers to alert the population," said Hamas leader 'Imad Faluji.

Hamas organizers also drove around the city calling on people to attend.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Faluji said all Palestinian political factions had been invited to take part "including ('Arafat's) Fatah and the Palestinian Authority," but added he did not think they would come.

He said the rally will include speeches and Islamic songs, but there were to be no marches through town, in accordance with police regulations.

Early Saturday, Hamas members tried to remove puddles left by heavy rains, placed about 4,000 seats on the grounds and linked up loudspeakers in preparation for the rally.

They put up portraits of 'Aql and placed instructions on streets leading to the rally site.

Faluji told AFP on Friday that the last-minute postponement of the rally was due to "bad weather," after heavy rain turned the autonomous Gaza Strip into a sea of mud in the past few days.

He denied the rally was called off because of fears of violence. "We control our men," he said.

Israel has sent military reinforcements to the Strip, notably to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim where four soldiers have been killed by militants in the last two weeks.

Jerusalem Radio: Over 30,000 in Attendence

TA2611152294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 30,000 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters gathered in Gaza this afternoon at a memorial ceremony for 'Imad 'Aql, a leader of Hamas' military arm, who was killed about a year ago. The ceremony opened with a quasi-military parade in which no arms were borne and with the burning of an Israeli flag.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a top Hamas leader, accused the Palestinian Authority [PA] of being fully responsible for the bloody rioting on 18 November. Aside from the accusations against the PA, the speakers primarily attacked Israel.

The gathering ended a short time ago, and the participants are starting to disperse. Thousands of residents of the southern Gaza Strip, who had been bused to the gathering, passed through the Netzarim junction shouting insults at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and chanting slogans praising Hamas.

Al-Quds Radio: 'More Than 70,000' Attend

JN2611194894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] More than 70,000 of our people in the steadfast Gaza Strip have responded to the Alliance of Palestinian Forces' call to attend the mammoth popular rally in al-Shaja'iyah Quarter in Gaza to commemorate martyrs. [passage omitted]

'Imad 'Aql 'Martyr of Palestine'

JN2611204394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that martyr 'Imad 'Aql [member of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, who was killed one year ago] is the martyr of Palestine, and that we, along with the 'Aql family, denounce sedition, will destroy it, and will pursue its perpetrators.

President 'Arafat noted that he has issued orders to the Palestinian security forces and some political leaders to participate in the memorial service [held in Gaza today], because it is a memorial for the son of Palestine.

This came in an answer to a question on a statement by the family of martyr 'Imad 'Aql in which they expressed allegiance to President 'Arafat, rejected sedition, and said that their martyr's annual anniversary must not be exploited.

Unity, Dialogue With Fatah Urged

JN2711103294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Speakers at a ceremony organized by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza yesterday called for continuing the constructive and fruitful dialogue with the Fatah Movement in order to bolster national Palestinian unity. They also called for refraining from terrorizing or encroaching on the people's security or vandalizing private and public property.

PA's Abu-Zayidah Comments

TA2611190994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, PA official in charge of the Israel desk, in Gaza, by Shlomi Eldar in the studio —live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eldar] Two weeks ago, at the Netzarim junction, you said: You Israelis made peace with 90 percent of the Palestinian people, and only 10 percent oppose it. Judging from the scenes at today's Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demonstration in Gaza, is it possible that you were wrong in your assessment?

[Abu-Zayidah] No. I, personally, always said that the opponents make up a total of 30 percent of the Palestinian people, and I do not think I was mistaken. I see the positive side of that demonstration, because Hamas made a commitment to the Palestinian Authority [PA] and kept its word. As you saw, there were no weapons; there was no clash with the Palestinian police. In brief,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

they looked forward to a large turnout, which was enough for them, and there was no clash with the PA.

[Eldar] In other words, there was an agreement between the PA and Hamas.

[Abu-Zayidah] As you will recall, you asked me at 1300 or 1400 today what I thought would happen. I believe I was right. The demonstration went the way we thought it would. I heard the interview with Shaykh Isma'il Haniyah on Israel Television's Arabic broadcast, which sent the PA, the Palestinian people, and Fatah a clear message that there is something to discuss and that conciliation between Hamas and the PA is possible. There is a possibility that, in the long run, Hamas will be part of the Palestinian political scene and will not be outside it.

[Eldar] But, Sufyan, what can you tell Israelis, who today saw 40,000 demonstrators, the burning of the Israeli flag, and calls for jihad? These things do not look like signs of peace.

[Abu-Zayidah] I do not give weight to what is said; the important thing is what will happen in the future. I repeat that there is a very, very moderate stream in Hamas, which is trying to seize control and prevent violence among the extremists, to reconcile with the PA, and to participate in the building of the Palestinian people's future.

Hamas Leader Views Self-Rule, Operations

JN2711162194 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 28 Nov 94 pp 10-11 Nov 94

[Interview with Hamas leader 'Imad al-Faluji in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, by Malik Abu-Zayd in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayd] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has recently stepped up its military activity. Is this part of its strategic operations or a tactic that has to do with the peaceful moves in the region?

[Al-Faluji] When negotiations were launched between the PLO and Israel, our principled position was to reject these negotiations. The movement has followed a moderate line to express its opinion about this issue. We have not resorted to violence, nor threatened to use violence against the Palestinian personalities that conducted the dialogue with Israel. We have not aimed at foiling the peace plan—although we reserve our right to express our opposition to this approach, without resorting to violence.

From the outset, we have raised a slogan banning internecine fighting and civil war. Things developed from Madrid to Oslo, then Washington; finally, there was the setting up of the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. We welcomed the Palestinian police and those who returned to the homeland. We gave the National Authority a chance to provide security and safety to the sons of our people. Our slogan was: Democracy is the best solution for building Palestinian society. What happened is that violations were committed by the Palestinian Authority. Hence, the beginning of suppression. Talk about a recent military escalation to confuse the leadership of the Palestinian Authority is irresponsible because our military action stems from a firm strategic position.

[Abu-Zayd] You have mentioned violations on the part of the Palestinian Authority. What do you mean by that? Have there been any agreements between you and the authority?

[Al-Faluji] No, there have been no specific agreements. However, we had hoped that there would be a minimum level of understanding so we could run our affairs in the liberated territories. We are willing to take part in local unionist action, whether through elections for a town council, in all areas, or appointing a temporary town council that is agreed on by everybody. Meetings were held between Hamas and all other factions, including Fatah, with brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat. Following intensive efforts that lasted several months, the composition of a town council was approved, including all factions. In addition, a town council was appointed several times at the request of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. He had rejected certain figures. We took that into consideration and proposed other names. When brother Abu-'Ammar arrived in Gaza, a town council was appointed representing all factions, chaired by 'Awni al-Shawwa. We were all surprised when Abu-'Ammar dissolved the council and appointed 'Awni al-Shawwa chairman of a council that has one shade. Five empty seats were left for all the other factions, including Hamas. This contradicts what we had agreed on.

[Abu-Zayd] How did you react to this slap?

[Al-Faluji] We realized that it was a serious development, but we refused to clash directly with the authority since this is an Israeli objective that could lead to Palestinian civil war. Because we were afraid that Israel could succeed in achieving this objective, we chose to stage a sit-in for only one hour at the town council building to express our rejection of this council.

[Abu-Zayd] Are the majority of the city council members affiliated with Fatah? Are there independents in the council?

[Al-Faluji] The majority of members are affiliated with Fatah. There are no independents in Gaza, or most Arab states, for that matter. For example, Fatah is officially entitled to name three PLO Executive Committee members. But, in fact, 15 out of 18, which is the total of PLO Executive Committee members, are either affiliated with Fatah or pursue Fatah policy. The remaining three posts are held by other factions. In the past, we demanded that all factions agree on a definition for the word "independents". For "independents" is a loose term behind which the Fatah Movement hides.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Abu-Zayd] Now that you have received the "first slap" from the Palestinian Authority [PA], as you have said, what will happen?

[Al-Faluji] This slap by Abu-'Ammar has not promoted the lot of the Hamas current that fosters dialogue. As a matter of fact, it has advanced the anti-dialogue current, which views the slap as something that corroborates their argument, which shuns dialogue with the PA. Hence, we have doubts that the PA would honor any agreement we might strike with it. Who can guarantee us that the PA would honor any such agreement? For the person who has overlooked the consensus of Palestinian factions can easily violate any agreement he might strike with us, or any other faction, for that matter. There is no room for obtaining any guarantees from somebody who is marked by single-mindedness.

We have walked through minefields with the PA. Every moment, we expected that the mines to go off. But, within Hamas, there has been a great deal of repression and frustration as a result of the authority's conduct and its efforts to marginalize the forces operating in the arena. Hence, the question posed at present is the following: What are we to do now? The authority is cementing its hold on power. Everybody is reinforcing his position. That is, all sides are engaged in daily acts to reinforce their positions. As is clear, if there is no breather to vent this mobilization through constructive action, this could lead to an explosion if the authority remains inclined to engage in clashes with Hamas, as has recently happened. As for Hamas, it lets out steam by attacking Israel. This is because we do not want a clash with the authority. We will not engage in clashes with it. We are convinced that the authority is coming under Israeli pressure. It is our duty to ease these Israeli, U.S., and Arab pressures by stepping up our military action. If we are to retaliate for any of the actions committed by the authority, we will target Israel. Whenever the noose is tightened around the [Hamas] Movement and the authority, we will deal lethal blows to Israel. We will do so because we want Israel to understand that whenever it brings pressure to bear on the authority to make it stifle the Hamas Movement, Hamas will retaliate not against the Palestinian Authority, but against the party that is pushing this authority to take steps that Israel itself deems futile.

We are convinced that there are several figures within the authority who are opposed to the Israeli argument. But, the pressure under which they come is what prompts them to announce positions of which they are not convinced. Recent incidents must be made perfectly clear. We in Hamas are in open conflict with Israel. Rabin has stated that he will continue his peace efforts with the authority and wage war on Hamas. Well, we embrace the same policy: We will deal with the Palestinian Authority as if there is a perfect state of peace between us and it; but, we will deal with Israel as an enemy with which we are engaged in open war. Our clear position in this regard has become public knowledge. As for the Madrid and Oslo accords, they are not binding on Hamas. This is because we were not consulted when they were signed. Hence, we will not honor any commitments the PLO has made to Israel or Western nations. We are not a party to the peace process.

[Abu-Zayd] Are you opposed to the overall [autonomy] agreement, or to some provisions of the agreement?

[Al-Faluji] We are opposed to the overall agreement.

[Abu-Zayd] In other words, you are opposed to peaceful solutions with Israel.

[Al-Faluji] No. The Hamas Movement launched a political peace initiative in 1988.

[Abu-Zayd] What are the most important elements of your peace initiative?

[Al-Faluji] The Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state, total and unconditional withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, dismantling all the settlements built after 1967, giving the Palestinian people the right to self-determination without being subjected to any foreign pressure, and making Jerusalem a unified capital of the independent Palestinian state.

After achieving all these goals, Hamas will be ready to hold a dialogue through a unified Palestinian position. But this does not mean any recognition of Israel as a legitimate entity.

[Abu-Zayd] Even if Israel declares its acceptance of your initiative?

[Al-Faluji] Even though that happens. We are dealing with international changes. Therefore, we are not talking about peace with the enemy but about a 10-year or even a 100-year truce with it. Palestine is an Islamic awqaf land, and neither Hamas nor the Palestinians have the right to relinquish it to the Israelis. Hamas cannot offer anything to Israel except a truce. Under our conditions, we will guarantee secure borders for Israel for a specific period of time, but only if it wants.

[Abu-Zayd] More specifically, do you approve the existence of a Palestinian and an Israel state side by side?

[Al-Faluji] No. I was clear in my answers. We can declare a renewable temporary truce with Israel.

[Abu-Zayd] Is there any direct dialogue with Israel?

[Al-Faluji] No. There is no direct dialogue with Israel.

[Abu-Zayd] Even through Shaykh Yasin and despite reports on conditions and counterconditions between you and the Israeli Government?

[Al-Faluji] Shaykh Yasin is held in solitary confinement in prison, and he is completely isolated from other prisoners. Hamas has no contacts with him, but holds contacts with its members in other prisons.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Abu-Zayd] How do you view statements Israeli officials made after the bus operation—statements which call for opening a dialogue with Hamas, just as it was the case with the PLO, which was listed as a terrorist organization at that time?

[Al-Faluji] I want to assert that a meeting with the Israelis may take place only if they agree to the points contained in our peace initiative. We will not talk to them for the sake of dialogue but to get matters that the PLO failed to get from Israel. We do not deny that the Palestinian negotiating delegation made acceptable proposals. If Israel had approved them during the Madrid conference, or if the Palestinian side had succeeded in achieving the goals it had set, the region would have been saved from the recent cycles of violence. The Oslo agreement was the last straw that broke the Palestinian back. Therefore, there will be no compromise with the Israelis. We will meet with them just to sign, and not to hold a dialogue. We have seen the results of the dialogue and agreement with the Israelis. We have not regained Gaza Strip or the West Bank. This is what made us go ahead with our political and military option in order to force the Israelis to meet our people's fair demands.

[Abu-Zayd] In case Hamas mounts new operations, are you not afraid that the PA could carry out repressive measures against it to make it clear that it is choosing peace versus Hamas, as Rabin has recently demanded?

[Al-Faluji] This is the Israeli aim. As for us, we have undertaken and pledged not to attack Israeli targets in the autonomous areas in order not to embarrass the PA before Israel. We have constantly honored this undertaking. But the areas not under the PA's jurisdiction will be scenes for our strugglers' operations. Israel, through Rabin and Peres, said before and after the signing of the Oslo accord that the security of its borders and citizens is an Israeli responsibility; and this is enshrined in the accord's provisions. As for the PA, its security responsibility is confined to the autonomous areas. Hence, the PA has no responsibility whatsoever for security in the settlements, the West Bank, and Israel proper. Hamas is not willing to engage in a dialogue aimed at halting its operations in these occupied territories. From this premise, it follows that the Tel Aviv operation, the abduction of the [Israeli] soldier, or any similar future operations do not concern the PA, because they were or will be carried out in areas that are not under its control or jurisdiction. After all, Israel has failed and will continue to fail to beleaguer the al-Qassam Battalions. It will fail to avert its operations. How then can the PA be expected to be able to accomplish such a mission? This is a basic issue. Hence, the accusation that we are attempting to embarrass the PA through our continued military operations is ridiculous. Had Hamas been interested in embarrassing the PA, it would have done so a long time ago. Had we sought to frustrate the PA's efforts, we would have done so. I am not divulging a secret when I declare that we are capable of frustrating its efforts. Nonetheless, we are well aware that any efforts to embarrass and frustrate the PA will result in the return of the Israeli occupation troops, which we deem undesirable.

[Abu-Zayd] Some have said that your operations are carried out in coordination with external parties. How true is this argument?

[Al-Faluji] Hamas does not receive orders from any authority other than its internal authority. It remains to be said that Hamas is not a Palestinian organization per se. Hamas is an international organization. It is an offshoot of the world Muslim Brotherhood movement. It is represented in the World Muslim Shura Council [WMSC], which has representatives from all world Islamic states, including Palestine. The general outlines of the Muslim Brotherhood's policy are set forth abroad. Domestic affairs are run in coordination between external leaders and leaders in the Palestinian territory. From 1989-1991, I was the top Hamas official in charge of coordination with the WMSC in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I can tell you that our actions are the product of our men's judgment, and of the Islamic movement's thought. These actions are meant to promote the interests of this movement. Given all this, I would like to reiterate that the Hamas Movement receives no support from any regime or party outside the framework of the Islamic movement and this international organization, which grants each country a sort of independence to define its policy, because it is in the best position to make judgments and decisions in this regard.

As for accusations that we are coordinating with this or that regime, they are baseless.

[Abu-Zayd] Rabin threatened to liquidate the Hamas leadership and the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions wherever they maybe, inside or outside [the occupied territories]. What is your reply?

[Al-Faluji] Rabin is known for his arrogant military mentality. His recent threats are nothing new for Hamas. We are continuously cautious and alert. However, we want to remind him of the past. His policies have never succeeded, and will never succeed. He will be the biggest loser if he implements his threats, because the movement's reply will be far beyond his expectations. We will reply to him in kind. Since it was established, Hamas has always avoided civilians. However, the Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre and the abhorrent cold-blooded killing of worshipers inside the mosque, without a convincing Israel reply, have instilled frustration and sadness in some groups of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. The main culprit in this major shift is Rabin himself, because he did not take firm action against those who voiced support for the killing of innocent Palestinians, as he does when some Israeli civilians get killed by Palestinian bullets.

[Abu-Zayd] Hamas earlier said it will carry out five huge operations to take revenge for the Ibrahimi Mosque martyrs. The five operations have been carried out. Will

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the movement stop its actions against the Israeli civilians and go back to its major policy, which it pursued before the massacre, namely, to confine its attacks to Israeli military personnel and settlers?

[Al-Faluji] As far as I know, the five operations have not all taken place. The recent operation (the Tel Aviv bus operation) was the third operation. However, this does not mean that I call for continuing military action against Israeli civilians. Certainly, Hamas implements its decisions and fulfills its obligations toward the sons of our people and martyrs.

PFLP-GC Demands Departure of "Arafatist' Clique

JN2611201294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1755 GMT 26 Nov 94

["Text" of statement issued by the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in Lebanon;" date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] To consummate the conspiracy against our Palestinian people's masses and their national cause, 'Arafat and his clique have begun efforts to honor the pledges they have made to the Zionists. They are translating these pledges into acts and deeds. 'Arafat has demonstrated that he is willing to crack down on the Palestinians opposed to the treasonous Gaza-Jericho accord with bullets. He has committed the Gaza massacre, in which dozens of Palestinians were martyred and hundreds were wounded. This massacre was committed in Gaza, whose alleyways have humiliated occupation troops. Gaza has rebelled against the philosophy of defeat and conquered occupation troops.

To make things worse, 'Arafat has chosen to take revenge on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp by perpetrating a fresh massacre there. In this massacre, dozens more Palestinians were martyred, and many others were wounded. 'Arafat has committed this massacre to confirm to his masters in Tel Aviv that he is avenging the Zionist enemy, which has experienced ordeals in Gaza and 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

What 'Arafat and his cliques are doing in Palestinian and Lebanese camps is a harbinger of the massacres and bloodbaths that could touch all Palestinians. 'Arafat aims to achieve for the Zionist entity all the objectives it has thus far failed to achieve.

Hence, the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, Islamic forces, and honorable Palestinians are required to oppose the stupidity and recklessness of traitor 'Arafat, because the situation has become intolerable. Moreover, maintaining silence over this state of affairs is now a crime. By committing his massacre in 'Ayn al- Hulwah, 'Arafat has become comparable to Goldstein, the perpetrator of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

The crime committed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah has been denounced and condemned by our people's masses, as well as by the nationalist and Islamic forces that firmly oppose the 'Arafatist clique's excesses. These masses and forces have declared that they will not condone such bickering henceforth, and that they will not accept anything short of the departure of the 'Arafatist clique, and of the trial of 'Arafat, as well as the massacre's perpetrators by a people's court, which should hand down its verdicts against the criminals.

We pledge to our people and revolution that we will oppose the course pursued by traitors and agents. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] will remain loyal to Palestine and the people, as you have always known it.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC in Lebanon

AL-QUDS, AL-NAHAR Banned in Gaza Strip

TA2811092194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police today banned the distribution in Gaza of the AL-QUDS and AL-NAHAR newspapers published in East Jerusalem. Sources in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the move was taken because the two newspapers reported that some 70,000 people attended the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] rally on Saturday while the Palestinian Police said only 5,000 attended.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, the official in charge of the justice portfolio in the autonomy, said Hamas-perpetrated attacks increased the economic plight of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip because many of them work in Israel. He noted that if Hamas does not want Gazans to starve, it should not help Israel exploit the attacks for its own benefit.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Butrus-Ghali Arrives for Two-Day Visit

Makes Statement to Press

LD2511204594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a two-day visit. He was received at Houari Boumediene Airport by Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, Algeria's UN Ambassador Ramtane Lamanra, and the representative of the UN development program.

In a statement to the national and international press, Butrus-Ghali talked about economic development as being a main principle of the United Nations.

[Begin Butrus-Ghali recording] I would like to thank the Algerian authorities for this reception. I shall start talks with the foreign affairs minister, then with the prime minister and the head of state. I would like to take the opportunity of my presence here in Algeria to thank Algeria's permanent envoy to the United Nations for the role he played in the G77 [as heard] and in preparing the paper that was submitted to the UN General Assembly on economic development two days ago. I would like to stress that economic development is a UN goal, and an international conference will be held in Copenhagen on social development. I have great hope that either the head of state or the prime minister will take part in this conference. This will be the subject of my talks with Algerian officials. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Following his visit to Algeria, the UN secretary general will visit the Saharan refugee camps and discuss the peace process in Western Sahara with Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and Moroccan officials.

Zeroual Receives Butrus-Ghali

LD2611133494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the headquarters of the presidency this morning State President Liamine Zeroual received UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali was yesterday received separately by Mokdad Sifi, the prime minister, and Abdelkader Bensalah, chairman of the Transitional National Council. [passage omitted]

The UN secretary general presented a review of the most important agenda items currently considered by the United Nations Organization, such as Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, Angola, the Caucasus countries, and Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

According to the government's statement, Mokdad Sifi presented in his turn a review of the prospects ensuing from the economic and political reforms being carried out now in Algeria. He stressed his government's determination to embody them according to the program that has been decided. After having given his principled agreement on Algeria's participation in the forthcoming international summit on social development, he stressed the interest given by his government to that meeting and expressed the hope that it will be crowned with tangible resolutions that will be embodied within the fixed deadlines.

With regard to the Western Sahara problem, the statement added that the prime minister stressed the importance of solving this issue which is linked to building the Arab Maghreb, stability and peace in the region.

In conclusion, the statement pointed out that agreement was reached on the continuation of developing relations and cooperation in the economic, social, and political fields between Algeria and the United Nations.

Butrus-Ghali Interviewed After Talks

LD2611203394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Liamine Zeroual has received UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali at the headquarters of the presidency. The talks between the two men focussed on cooperation between Algeria and the international organization as well as on the UN plan of action regarding the peace process in the Western Sahara.

The meeting which was held in private between President Zeroual and Mr. Butrus-Ghali was later extended to include members of the two sides. It was attended on the Algerian side by the foreign minister, the secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs, the government's official spokesman, as well as the presidency's diplomatic adviser and official spokesman.

Mr. Butrus-Ghali was accompanied by the assistant secretary general in charge of communication, the UN special envoy to the Western Sahara, the director of the political affairs department and the representative of the UN development plan in Algeria.

After the meeting, Mr. Butrus-Ghali answered journalists' questions:

[Begin recording] [Butrus-Ghali] I thank the president for that reception and I can say that the talks were positive and dealt with all issues dealing with relations between Algeria and the United Nations.

I also reviewed some international issues, dealing with the Middle East and with Yugoslavia.

I also invited the president to take part in a summit conference on social development in Copenhagen in March. The president has accepted the invitation in principle. I will leave, God willing, to the Western Sahara tomorrow morning to contact the president of POLISARIO and I will head after that to Morocco so

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that we can push forward the Western Saharan issue and hold the referendum at the nearest possible opportunity. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Secretary General, how does the United Nations intend to implement resolutions reached at the Naples conference on combating international terrorism?

[Butrus-Ghali] Thank you for that question. The Italian prime minister and I took part in the conference on fighting organized international terrorism. The conference was very important and the aim was to make the public aware, to mobolize world public opinion on the dangers of international terrorism and to search for the best form of cooperation between all states to stamp out international terrorism. [end recording]

Butrus-Ghali Visits Smara

LD2711141194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Head of State Liamine Zeroual received UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali yesterday at the headquarters of the presidency of the Republic. [passage omitted]

The issue of cooperation between the UN and Algeria, and the preparation for the international conference on economic and social development, which is scheduled to be held in Copenhagen soon, was the focus of the talks that were held at El Mithak residence between Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. The two sides also dealt with other topics such as the developments witnessed by the international arena and the Arab Maghreb region, particularly that of pushing forward the peace process in Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

The UN secretary general, who left Algiers today, is now in the town of Smara, in the liberated Saharan territory, where, according to our correspondent Hamza Wahib, he began his talks with the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] leadership.

[Wahib] The UN secretary general is now in the town of Smara, in the liberated Saharan territory, where talks are being held between him and the Polisario leadership. These talks enable the Saharan side to express its complaint about the Moroccan maneuvers in the voters' identification operation, and to stress to Butrus-Ghali the need to hold a direct and serious dialogue with Morocco so as to hold a free, democratic, and transparent referendum in Western Sahara. As far as the Polisario is concerned, the visit of Butrus-Ghali will reveal the UN intentions to solve the referendum operation in a just way.

A few hours before the arrival of Butrus-Ghali, in an interview we held with Mr. Bachir Mustapha Sayed, a senior Polisario official, he stressed to us that if the UN secretary general comes with an idea on negotiations and a date for holding these, this will contribute to dissipating the specter of the return of war, coming closer to real peace, and consequently bringing closer the holding of the referendum and enabling the secretary general to fix a credible timetable. As far as Bachir Mustapha Sayed is concerned, the visit of Butrus-Ghali to Western Sahara is definitely the last chance.

[Begin Sayed recording] This operation has now crossed the easiest part of the road and is now entering the difficult stages and the last part of the itinerary that consists of complications. With the obstacles put forward by Morocco and the pressures it is practicing now, the dangers are real and present considering the halt in the identification process, which is the only field in which the peace process was progressing and the only evidence of a peace process. [end recording]

[Wahib] We recall that Butrus-Ghali will arrive in Tindouf at about 1100 hours, will leave afterward for the town of Smara, and will leave the Saharan territory for Morocco immediately after the end of his talks with the Saharan officials.

Reaction to Outcome of Rome Talks Continues

FIS Leader Ait Ahmed Interviewed

BR2311140994 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 23 Nov 94 p 19

[Interview with Socialist Forces Front leader Hocine Ait Ahmed by Toni Fontana in Rome; date not given: "Algeria Is Not Made Up Only of Police and Extremists"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome—The colloquium on Algeria—which was organized by the Sant' Egidio community and in which 16 movements of the nondenominationalist and Islamic opposition to the Algerian regime participated—ended yesterday in Rome with the approval of a document that opens the door to "a series of useful contacts for initiating negotiations." We interviewed Hocine Ait Ahmed about the outcome of the meeting in Rome. He is one of the fathers of the Algerian revolution and president of the Socialist Forces Front which came in second in the January 1992 elections, after the FIS (Islamic Salvation Front). Ait Ahmed, who has sought refuge abroad, played a leading role in the colloquium.

[Fontana] The document laboriously drafted in Rome says that the colloquium on Algeria is "a first step" in defining a line of opposition to the regime. Was this a satisfactory example of mediation?

[Ait Ahmed] It was not genuine political negotiation but a colloquium in which everyone was able to illustrate their own position. Our first concern is to inform Italian and international public opinion. We must put an end to the simplistic view—which is very widespread in the West—that in Algeria there are either policemen or

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

extremists. That is not the case. The majority of the population supports neither one nor the other.

[Fontana] The Algerian Government controversially decided to stay away from the meeting in Rome. How do you assess this decision?

[Ait Ahmed] The meeting was held here in Rome because there is no longer any dialogue in Algeria. It is the government that announced, a few days ago, the end of the confrontation, and we immediately realized that in actual fact the dialogue had never started. So we welcomed this initiative by the Sant'Egidio community, which made the positions public and provided information. The meeting showed that when Algerians are able to meet each other freely, they can discuss things. A number of common denominators came to light during the talks. The first is democracy. Everyone is agreed about the need to go back to the ballot box. This is not an abstract concept: We must ensure that there is a system of alternating parties, respect for the rights of men and women, political and cultural pluralism, and—above all—a break of the spiral of violence. These principles must become constitutional dictates to be submitted to the judgement of the people. We are suggesting parliamentary elections. The FIS was also very clear on this point. A meeting like the one held in Rome would not have been possible in Algeria. How can we trust a regime which eliminated Mohamed Boudiaf, which has never kept its promises, and which has never agreed to a dialogue, instead preferring to step up the repression? Summary executions are an everyday event which serve to redouble the violence by the Islamists. This is the result! It is really curious that the Algerian Government accuses the Italian Government of "interfering." Everyone knows that certain Algerian officials come and go to Paris and that there have been shipments of war material. This is an example of "interference" that takes place with the complicity of the apparatus of the Algerian state.

[Fontana] You have also strongly condemned the violence by Islamist extremists and talked about "foreign countries" which are fanning the flames.

[Ait Ahmed] We have never failed to condemn all violence and all terrorism. On 2 January 1992 we called on the people of Algeria to go into the streets to prevent the election process from being blocked. So it is neither a police state nor an Islamic republic. It was an enormous demonstration in support of the "third path," the path of democracy, which is the opposite of the authoritarianism found in Algeria and which even some extremists envision for the future.

[Fontana] Here in Rome the FIS people talked of free elections and democracy. They distanced themselves from violence.

[Ait Ahmed] Our political initiative is transparent. Democracy does not mean anything unless clear and certain rules are established: respect of the rights of men and women, political alternation, and the separation of powers. If the FIS members accept these principles, then that is a positive aspect. I listened to their speeches closely, and that was what they said. We do not put people on trial for presumed intentions. The government must approve liberalization measures. This is an inalienable and priority point. The democratic forces must be able to meet freely anywhere in Algeria. Those people who do not support the government and who do not accept extremism must unite. This majority of Algerians has never stopped growing and gaining strength. When Algerian children see bodies with their heads chopped off and when panic is spreading throughout the country, the most decisive reaction is to oppose violence by the state and anyone else. This is the true backbone of Algeria.

Attaf Answers Correspondents' Questions

LD2311140694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Ahmed Attaf remarks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] At his periodic meeting with newsmen this morning, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, the official spokesman for the government, answered questions by journalists, which generally focused on the situation in the country and the meeting in Rome of the leaders of some political parties. Abdelkader Djeridi returned from the Foreign Ministry a few minutes ago and is with us in the studio. What about this meeting, Abdelkader?

[Abdelkader] As you said, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, official spokesman for the government and secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs, held a news conference this morning at the Foreign Ministry in the presence of the national press and representatives of the international press in Algeria. This meeting was an occasion for reviewing a number of national and international issues about which newsmen asked questions. At the beginning, questions by newsmen focused on the Rome meeting held recently [organized by the Sant' Edigio Catholic community] and attended by Algerian personalities and representatives of a number of Algerian parties. The official spokesman for the government stressed that the solutions to the Algerian crisis are in Algeria, in the hands of Algerians. He said:

[Attaf] The authority in Algeria believes that the key to getting out of the crisis in the country is in Algeria, in the hands of the Algerians themselves. We categorically reject any interference in our domestic affairs, or mediation, whether direct or indirect, whatever its source and whoever those who undertake it may be. As for judging what happened in Rome, it is up to the Algerian people themselves to judge, who have seen what happened and followed [the actions of] those who allowed themselves to confiscate the people's will, and their attempt to subject it to foreign mediation or to a foreign will.

[Abdelkader] To a question on comments made by some national newspapers recently, and the future of the freedom of expression in Algeria, Mr. Attaf explained:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Attaf] The government is fully convinced of the need for the freedom of the press in the country as a basic pillar to entrench democracy in our homeland. This position is unambiguous. All there is to it today is the implementation of a law in force. The government has no wish to subject the press to bonds other than the bonds of the law. More clearly, I wish to say that the point at issue concerns security-related information: Our press has the freedom, all freedom, absolute freedom to express its opinion, or to make criticism in the political, economic, social, diplomatic domains; but there exist objective circumstances concerning the security of the country, and the state must carry out its laws in this field.

[Abdelkader] Concerning the Berber language, the official spokesman for the government affirmed that the solution to the question of the Berber language is now the responsibility of the national committee set up by the prime minister recently:

[Attaf] The position of the government is clear on the Berber language. The government is sincere in its intention to deal with the Berber language as a national issue and question. The government is also sincere in its intention to tackle this subject in an effective framework with objectives, and this framework is the national committee proposed by the prime minister, which we definitely and sincerely consider as the ideal framework to tackle the Berber language in a scientific and rational manner.

[Abdelkader] Regarding national dialogue, Mr. Attaf recalled the statement made by the state president on 29 October to the parties—that doors are still open to dialogue as a political means to resolve the crisis in our country. The official government spokesman denied that there is going to be a cabinet reshuffle of the government of Mr. Mokdad Sifi, and he also denied reports that King Hassan of Morocco may pay a visit to our country. Mr. Attaf also answered a number of questions by colleagues on various national and Maghreb-related issues, to which we will be going back in detail in our coming news bulletins.

Minister on Need for Dialogue

LD2511083794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Abderrahmane Miziane Cherif gave an interview to the Algerian Press Service in which he talked about the latest developments at national level including the Rome meeting. About the latter he said that some parties were unable to offer—either at the bilateral or multilateral level—any contribution to finding ways of getting the country out of the crisis. He affirmed the will of the authority and its commitment to a genuine dialogue among Algerians and on Algerian soil.

The interior minister said that some people at the Rome meeting went as far as making statements and superficial analyses of a situation which they played a great role in creating. He explained that whatever our differences, people should not close their eyes to the terrorist acts and the destruction of the nation's heritage. For this reason we must not risk the future of our children.

HAMAS, Other Parties Reject Communique

LD2311211494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As you know, the Rome meeting has ended. Those among the leaders of the Algerian political organizations who answered the invitation of the Catholic community have spoken about the Algerian crisis and have endorsed a resolution demanding the Sant' Edigio community to be a continuous communication channel. They all agreed that the meeting was a step within a series of other contacts, demanding no interference from foreigners.

What came out from the Rome meeting was only a repetition of the same known demands—such as holding the election and an all-inclusive dialogue. The leader of the Socialist Forces Front has once again demanded the setting up of a sovereign national commission like the South African commission, while Abdelhamid Mehri [National Liberation Front leader] spoke about the impossibility of holding an election in the current circumstances due to the control. Mahfoud Nahnah [leader, Islamic Society Movement—HAMAS] spoke to the press and showed the photograph of the late Bou Slemani in order to strongly denounce the terrorist operations. He concluded his review by saying that the solution comes neither from Mecca nor from Qom.

Immediately after his return from Rome, the HAMAS leader held a news conference in which he spoke about the circumstances and complications that led to holding this meeting, and he rejected the final communique:

[Begin Nahnah recording] The document, by the way, was called the final communique. That final communique included some points which were written without our knowledge. This alone is sufficient to reject it from A to Z. It contains phrases and terms formulated and molded to serve certain parties inside Algeria or outside. This prompted us to reject this document that is called the final communique. We are convinced that the dialogue about the Algerian crisis must be among Algerians and in Algeria alone. [end recording]

Further on Parties' View of Communique

LD2311213694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Statements denouncing the Rome meeting have continued to appear even from within the National Liberation Front [FLN]. After Batna Province, the party province of Medea has denounced the meeting and said that those who have extended their

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

plotting outside the homeland were no different from those who were negotiating in the saloons of Western capitals.

El Oued Province said in a statement that the participation of the FLN leadership was contrary to the opinion of the grassroots and in contradiction with the patriotic and religious principles of the party, and that the leadership of the party by behaving in such a way has disregarded the struggling base.

Other statements denouncing the Rome meeting have been issued—from the provincial secretariat of the national organization of veterans' sons, the national organization of martyrs' sons, the provincial union of the national union of Algerian youth in Souk Ahras, the provincial office of veterans, veterans of the national people's army, and senior disabled of the liberation war in Tlemcen.

FFS Leader Praises Party Activists, Dialogue

LD2511200994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The preparatory conference of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] held in Sidi Feredj over the past three days ended this evening. After the conference, FFS acting Secretary General Said Khelil held a news conference to review the results of the preparatory meeting.

[Begin recording] [Khelil] The fact that there are party activists under the current security situation and pressures is itself a challenge. This shows that there are true Algerians, patriots who reject the fait accompli. They have a very strong will to build democracy in the country and pluck their country from the crisis and impasse.

We have to believe in these activists. We have to believe in Algerians at the grass roots. There are decisions taken by the organization to build a democratic party with capabilities.

We agreed that we need to expand the party and adopted resolutions to that effect. On the political level, we are still stressing our positions and increased the party's proposals.

As far as we are concerned, we see politics as a practical factor in society rather than a theoretical or structural factor. We stressed that, evaluated the country's social and economic state, and are noted with regret that the people are living in misery. We said that we need to take into consideration the current economic measures in the country.

[Announcer] As for future FFS ties with political partners and the regime, he said:

[Khelil] The regime wants us to hold a dialogue with the people but we have never interrupted our dialogue with the people. Anyhow, concerning the parties, we are still in principle dialogue advocates. After the address by the president, there was a political lapse. There was political inactivity and these parties were not able to return to the field. We hope that this will take place soon, God willing. [end recording]

Sifi Talks With Berber Cultural Movement

LD2511110194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister, who is ready to promote the resumption of school lessons by all possible means, has urged the officials of the MCB [Berber Cultural Movement] to work toward this end. Mokdad Sifi expressed his receptiveness yesterday on receiving a delegation of the MCB national commission, led by Djamal Zennati. This meeting followed the one held between the prime minister and a delegation of the MCB national coordinating committee, led by Ferhat Mhenni, on 17 November. According to a communique of the prime minister's services, these talks took place in a climate of frankness and calm, and permitted a sincere exchange of views on the Tamazight question. Stress was laid on the need to continue with consultations with the aim of achieving an outcome to the situation.

Let me remind you that as a sign of goodwill the MCB national coordinating committee called for the economic strikes, marches and rallies to be halted for a fortnight, as of tomorrow. Both currents of the MCB however categorically rejected the prime minister's call for the school boycott to be ended.

FIS Claims Imam Tortured to Death

LD2511115594 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There is uncertainty about the fate of Zahareddine Nafa, an Algerian imam expelled to Algeria on 6 November by the prefect of Moselle, in western France. A communique from the executive body of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] abroad claims that Mr. Nafa died under torture in Algeria. Nafa's French lawyer, Maitre Del Rez, however says that he has not been informed about any torture or death in connection with his client and that he is busy preparing to appeal to the Council of State against the decree ordering that Mr. Nafa be escorted over the border.

FIS Blames France for Dialogue Failure

MM2811101094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Nov 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Front Official in Belgium: France Cause of Algerian Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Aachen (Germany), AL-HAYAH—Abdelkarim Ould Edda, the [Algerian] Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] official in Belgium, has vehemently criticized France, accusing it of being behind the failure of the dialogue in Algeria. In an interview with AL-HAYAH in Aachen (near the German-Belgiun

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

border) he said that French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua is behaving "as though he had become Algeria's interior minister."

Ould Edda, a former regional [FIS] office head in Algeria who was arrested and imprisoned for his role in the June 1991 civil disobedience incidents, said that the Algerian regime wanted the situation to reach the current state, so "it worked to thwart the dialogue, blaming the FIS for what it itself is responsible for."

He accused elements in President Liamine Zeroual's regime "of preparing a plan behind the scenes during the contacts between FIS leaders and the authorities." He said that the plan succeeded, since Zeroual announced the failure of the dialogue on the eve of the 1 November celebrations marking the anniversary of the revolution against France. He added: "It seems that France wanted on that anniversary to take revenge against the Algerian people, who rose against and triumphed over it."

The FIS official continued his attack on "France and its party in Algeria." He said that Lieutenant General Mohamed Lamari, Algerian chief of staff, "went to France immediately after Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj were moved from Blida prison and placed under house arrest." He wondered: "What was he doing there? What are the scores of senior officers who are coming and going, doing there? It [France] is running everything. It is the cause of the problem in Algeria."

He said: "How can Pasqua's statement, namely that the Algerian regime will not fall during these days, be interpreted? He is talking about matters that have nothing to do with him, as though he had become Algeria's interior minister. His and France's attitudes reflect spite and the mentality France is using when dealing with Algeria. It is the mentality of a spiteful crusader. The difference between French colonialism and any other colonialism is big. France tried to destroy the Islamic identity. It is frightened of a cultural plan, namely the Islamic plan. This is why it is frightened of the veil [hijab]. It is frightened of the cultural symbol it [the veil] represents." [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 49 'Terrorists'

LD2611194994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said that security forces liquidated 49 terrorists between Wednesday and Friday in the provinces of Blida, Boumerdes, Medea, Mascara, Tizi Ouzou, Setif, Mila, Chlef, Bordj Arreridj, Algiers, Tipaza, Batna, Tiaret, Tissemsilt, and Mila.

The security services' statement added that the security forces recovered several hunting rifles, automatic pistols, homemade bombs, ammunition of various calibers, and inciting documents.

Another statement by the security services said that Mrs. Boughedou Khadidja, mother of the two sisters Zoulikha and Saida who were murdered with knives on 4 November in the Blida region, was found today by the security forces slain and buried in the same area. This followed from information supplied by one of the terrorists who was recently detained.

Security Forces Claim Successes

LD2711195994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said that they have been able to eliminate four terrorists. These were members of a 32-man cell active in Hennaya, in Tlemcen province. The security forces were also able to arrest 26 members.

The security forces were able to eliminate two terrorists, who were being hunted, in Mostaganem. They were also able to break up a terrorist network in Relizane. The investigations enabled the security forces to break up several terrorist cells in Relizane province. The first cell was composed of seven members. Two terrorists among them, Abdelkader Benatia and Abdelkader Berkaoui were eliminated. The second cell was composed of 11 members and the third one had three members.

Twelve members from another cell, led by the terrorist Mohamed Henni alias Abou Ismail, were arrested.

The security forces eliminated two terrorists in Saoula and Belcourt.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Tour of European Countries

NC2411172194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that his lightning four-day visit to three European countries aimed to serve the interests of the Egyptian people and serve the cause of Arab nations.

In a statement made to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers on board the plane which flew him from Bucharest to Cairo, he said boosting bilateral relations, especially in commercial and economic fields, was one of the main aims of his tour. In addition, he discussed increasing the scale of investment in new projects to be set up in Egypt to support the national economy and create new job opportunities.

President Mubarak said the Palestinian issue was one of the focal points of his talks with the leaders of the three states that he visited. He said that he explained the importance of supporting the Palestinian National Authority and of achieving stability and peace in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

region, so that it does not become a hotbed of terrorism and the scene of a bloodbath similar to Afghanistan.

In his statement to the chief editors, President Mubarak said that British officials are now convinced of the need to support Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. They are also convinced of the need for the donor countries to "quickly play their role," so that the situation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank will not explode and be exacerbated.

President Mubarak said he explained to Italian officials the recent circumstances surrounding the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza. He said that any delay in giving financial assistance to the PA because it is lacking an accounting system will not achieve stability and peace. He explained that the Palestinians were "strugglers" who know nothing about financial and accounting systems. President Mubarak said the donor countries must help the Palestinian strugglers establish a stable civilian state and must train them on how to establish sound financial, accounting, and administrative systems.

President Mubarak indicated that he had explained to British and Italian officials that they should inform the European Union that "if 'Arafat fails, then Rabin will not find a permanent and durable peace for Israel."

President Mubarak said that, during his talks in Britain, he emphasized the importance of not escalating the situation with Libya over the Lockerbie crisis. He said he had found "understanding" in this respect.

Discussing the Arab situation and the idea of an Arab reconciliation, President Mubarak said that Egypt has always worked to calm the situation. However, the wound opened after the Gulf War is still deep. A long time is required for this wound to heal.

President Mubarak noted that he repeatedly "advised" Iraqi President Saddam Husayn not to escalate the situation. He said that, in November 1990, "we were on the verge of holding an Arab reconciliation conference that would have included Syria and Iraq. However, Saddam expressed a desire that the proposed summit be postponed until after November. The reason for this became clear when it was discovered that he was planning to invade Kuwait in August of the same year.

President Mubarak explained that, when he called for the Cairo summit after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he wanted to find for Saddam Husayn a way out of his predicament without him losing face. However, Saddam rejected this effort.

President Mubarak said that, when the Gulf War began, the United States wanted its troops to enter Baghdad to topple Saddam Husayn. However, he warned U.S. President Bush against this and advised him not to resort to this measure, because the Iraqi people alone had the sole say in this matter.

On Egypt's request to join the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], President Mubarak said King Hassan II of Morocco has been pressing him for over three years to join the AMU. He said that this would be Egypt's natural place instead of the Arab Cooperation Council (which used to comprise Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen). He said that he discussed with Italian officials the idea of the Mediterranean Club and the need for an agreement on cooperation and association between the AMU and the European Union.

On domestic policy, President Mubarak said he will never allow the Egyptian pound to be devalued because this will mean astronomically high prices, hyperinflation, and a budget deficit—in other words, a constant headache. He said there would be no price hikes in Egypt, nor is Egypt prepared to follow the course laid out by the Soviet Union and Poland. He affirmed that he will not allow anyone to interfere in Egypt's domestic policy, because he is working for the interests of the Egyptian people.

On the new bills to be submitted to the People's Assembly, President Mubarak said these topics must be discussed seriously and objectively, because they aim to serve the citizens' interests. The People's Assembly must choose the best proposals and adopt them.

Regarding the housing law, President Mubarak said there must be a provision prohibiting the expulsion of a tenant from a housing unit, because he sees this as a form of protection for Egyptian citizens.

On the coming People's Assembly elections, President Mubarak said it has not yet been decided which system should be adopted—the individual system or the list system. Discussion is under way on the best ways to serve the interests of the Egyptian people.

On the economic side of his tour, President Mubarak said Egypt has joint interests and areas of cooperation with Romania. He said both big and small industrial joint ventures will be established. He also discussed the idea of establishing a free zone in each country for trading with the other country. He indicated that the establishment of a free zone for Egypt in Romania would open the door for Egyptian products to enter all East European and new commonwealth countries.

President Mubarak said Egyptian-Romanian joint ventures will be established to produce cement, cigarettes, furniture, and chemicals. He added that railway repair workshops will be set up, as well as workshops to produce transformers. There is also a project to produce high voltage power lines at a cost of 18 million pounds.

He explained that there are a number of joint ventures costing 241 million pounds, including an Egyptian-Romanian bank, two tourist projects, and two services companies. Romania will contribute 40 percent of the capital for these projects.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

President Mubarak said Egypt exports to Romania crude oil, cotton, and leather and imports from Romania reinforced iron, timber, paper, and railway units. He noted that trade between the two countries stands at 186 million pounds. In addition, Romanian projects in Egypt are valued at approximately 700 million pounds.

Musa Comments on Visit With Saudi Counterpart

NC2811071494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will submit a comprehensive report to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today on his visit to Saudi Arabia. During the visit, which lasted a few hours, he delivered a message from President Mubarak to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Returning from Riyadh early today, Musa stated that his talks with Saudi officials dealt with the results of President Mubarak's recent European tour in addition to consultations and coordination on issues of mutual interest in light of the general international situation and the Arab world in particular. The foreign minister held talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Musa Interviewed on Ties With Israel

TA2511142594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SOFSHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 25 Nov 94 pp 30, 31, 66

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by 'Oded Granot in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Granot] People in Israel think you are the man leading the campaign to push us into a corner so that we will sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

[Musa] I would like you to know that, initially, we acted quietly. For many months, we held very secret contacts with the Israeli Government. Furthermore, I would like you to know that this is not a move directed against you but a policy designed to curb the arms race in the entire region.

Tell me: What is the sense of calling on all the Arab countries to sign the NPT and not to call on Israel to do the same? Why should Israel be an exception? We cannot accept such a thing. This is not a matter of intransigent policies. Peace and friendship with Israel do not mean that we must see eye to eye with you on every issue. The issue of nuclear development must be dealt with in order to attain comprehensive peace.

[Granot] What is the big rush?

[Musa] Everything must be solved now. We must put all the issues on the table. Why put them off to a later stage? Who knows what will happen then?

[Granot] Israel argues that other countries in the region are trying to attain nuclear weapons and already possess chemical weapons. It would be best to wait until we reach a comprehensive arrangement and then discuss the demilitarization of the region.

[Musa] And we say that it must be discussed now.

[Granot] And what about the Iraqis, the Iranians, and the Libyans?

[Musa] Those are just words. Iraq is subject to strict UN supervision. Iran signed the NPT, and if you have something serious against the Iranians, you had better complain to the international institutions. Incidentally, they can also complain about you.

[Granot] And what about Libya?

[Musa] Is Libya a nuclear superpower?

[Granot] There are plants producing chemical weapons in Libya.

[Musa] There are no chemical weapons in Libya. If you have evidence to that effect, please submit it to the UN Security Council. You drop the names of countries such as Iraq, Iran, and Libya only to make waves.

[Granot] How would Egypt benefit if Israel were to disclose the existence of nuclear weapons in the midst of the peace process?

[Musa] Look, we are not trying to embarrass Israel, but neither do we want to embarrass ourselves. We do not treat you like an enemy but like our next-door neighbor. Nuclear activity about which we know nothing is going on at our neighbor's place. Nobody knows anything about it. We want to know what is going on, and we do not want to compromise on our security issues.

[Granot] But everything is written in the papers.

[Musa] Forget about the papers. There is an international control system. The international community is demanding that Egypt sign the NPT but is not demanding the same of Israel. That is not fair. We want to reach an agreement with Israel on the question of where we go from here. What we need from Israel now is a clear statement that these issues will be discussed at a specific date and that Israel is prepared to sign the NPT just like other countries. We are not asking Israel to make any big moves but only to show that it intends to make some progress on this issue according to a timetable, a framework agreement, etc. It is not true that I am out to get Israel. I am raising a subject that pertains to the security of Egypt, as a neighbor of Israel. Were the shoe on the other foot, you would not agree to Egypt's exempting itself from international control.

[Granot] Is that the reason why you will not allow Israeli inspectors to enter the research reactor at Inshas?

[Musa] It works both ways; it cannot be one-sided. In Israel, people who think differently are often immediately perceived to be the enemy. It is not a matter of hostility but a problem of misconduct.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Granot] People in Israel believe that Egypt is leading the offensive on the nuclear issue in order to muster favor with the Arab world.

[Musa] Once again, they are wrong. The issue is far more serious than that; it touches upon the security of the region. The issue will also be raised by other countries. If you think we are going to drop this issue and agree to be treated like a second-class country, you had better think twice.

[Granot] Each time you meet with Peres, you argue about nuclear development.

[Musa] We discuss it because our friendship enables us to do that. When there are normal relations and ties of peace, people can agree or disagree without shouting at each other. The last time I raised the issue was when I visited Israel as Shim'on Peres' guest. You should appreciate that fact instead of criticizing me. Now, give me another example of my "intransigence."

[Granot] Let us talk about your visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

[Musa] I thought that issue had already been settled. [passage omitted]

[Granot] AL-HAYAT, which is considered a reliable paper, wrote that Egypt was behind the Comoros Islands' decision to put off the establishment of relations with Israel.

[Musa] I am sorry; that is totally incorrect. We did not interfere. We did not advise the Comoros Islands to proceed one way or another.

[Granot] Has Egypt not tried to slow down the pace of the establishment of relations between Israel and other Arab countries either?

[Musa] No, absolutely not.

[Granot] The massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs outraged you so much that you demanded to recall Ambassador Basyuni.

[Musa] Was I ever outraged! Do you think such a massacre can be written off? Does somebody who does not write it off immediately become Israel's enemy?

[Granot] Would you describe yourself as a friend of Israel?

[Musa] I have a deep friendship with Shim'on Peres. I know Binyamin Netanyahu very well, and he is a friend of mine, although I do not share his views. [passage omitted]

[Granot] How would you describe relations between Israel and Egypt today?

[Musa] As good relations of peace, as relations of cooperation and gradual rapprochement.

[Granot] On one hand, there is rapprochement. Then there is the matter of your speech at the Casablanca conference. You were very harsh.

[Musa] And what about Rabin's speech?

[Granot] 'Arafat angered him.

[Musa] I said that the issue of Jerusalem was subject to negotiation, which in itself is a moderate position. There can be no progress in the peace process without solving the problem of Jerusalem, and the problem of Jerusalem cannot be solved without negotiations. You have your position, and the Palestinians have theirs. You may ultimately reach the conclusion that Jerusalem must remain united, but that must be reached through a process of negotiations and not through a one-sided move.

When Rabin spoke about the obstacles the extreme Islamic groups pose to peace, however, I had to remind him that there are extremists on both sides. I only spoke the truth.

[Granot] Would you say that 'Arafat angered Rabin, who in turn angered you?

[Musa] You could say that. Anyway, if I had kept my mouth shut and not answered Rabin, would you have considered me a friend of Israel? You do not want anybody to react. You must get used to the idea that there is a legitimate argument between us and that, without a solution of the Palestinian track, there will be no comprehensive arrangement in the region. Peace, just like the tango, takes two. Everybody wants to dance now, but the music must be played by everybody and not just by Israel. "If you are not with me, you are against me" is a bizarre attitude which must change.

[Granot] Was Egypt somewhat upset about the peace with Jordan because it played no role in its attainment?

[Musa] Not at all. You may carry on an affair with Jordan for as long as you want, but what we favor is regional cooperation that encompasses everybody. We also favor comprehensive peace, especially peace with the Palestinians. Egypt will continue to play a role, whether people like it or not. I am telling you that Egypt is a focal point of moderation, as well as of leadership, in the Arab world. Not everybody likes it, but they will have to get used to it.

[Granot] Were you not a little bit surprised when the Jordanians struck a deal with Israel and left the Syrians behind?

[Musa] You are wrong. Syria was not left behind. The Syrians will not run forward only because of your agreement with Jordan. The Palestinians, too, will insist on their right to self-determination. Jordan was entitled to achieve what it wanted. We in Egypt welcomed your agreement, and we did not tell the Jordanians what to do or not to do. But the Syrians will continue to negotiate on

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the basis of their own interests. The same applies to the Palestinians and the Lebanese. [passage omitted]

[Granot] As a man who has spent a lot of time with Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar', would you say that we are closer to peace with Syria?

[Musa] It is not far away. I am optimistic on this issue, but it will not be easy. The Syrians will not enter any arrangement if they do not get back all their territory. Furthermore, this is very logical and fair.

[Granot] Did you gather from your talks with al-Shar' that if they get back all of the Golan, they will give warm peace in exchange?

[Musa] I do not believe in cold peace or warm peace. Peace is peace. Warmth depends on many factors.

[Granot] Can we talk about normal relations, about embassies and flights, visits and tourism?

[Musa] I think so.

[Granot] Did you get the impression that al-Asad is in a rush to reach an agreement before the elections in Israel and in the United States?

[Musa] Al-Asad wants to get back the Golan as soon as possible, but he will not do that at any cost. If he gets a good deal, he will get moving. Al-Asad is a very intelligent man. Do not depict him as an obstinate man only because he wants to get his land back and pay as little as possible in exchange. That is human nature.

[Granot] Two bad things happened to Clinton recently: The Republicans won the midterm elections, and al-Asad promised him he would denounce terror in public but did not deliver.

[Musa] You cannot compare the two. The defeat of the Democrats in Congress is a very important development. As for the denunciation of terror, I would like to clarify something. Based on talks I held, it transpires that the right question was simply not asked at the news conference and that al-Asad replied to the question exactly as it was asked. This question simply sidetracked the whole issue.

[Granot] Meaning that the man who posed the question is the only one to blame for the fact that al-Asad did not denounce terror.

[Musa] Exactly. That is what I think.

[Granot] The problem of terror is very important to Israel....

[Musa, interrupting] The problem of terror is very important to the whole region, and Syria is no exception. Terror threatens Syria just as it jeopardizes Israel, the United States, and the entire peace. We cannot infer from what happened that Syria supports terror. That would be the wrong conclusion, and it would lead to serious consequences.

[Granot] There are rumors about Israeli and Syrian officers meeting in secret. Did al-Shar' confirm to you that they are meeting or are about to meet?

[Musa] I do not know whether they have met already, but they will have to meet in order to decide on the withdrawal lines and the security arrangements. That was what happened in the negotiations we held with you.

[Granot] Turning to the Palestinian issue, 'Arafat seems to be in bad shape. The Islamic Jihad is threatening to kill him. Can he control the situation?

[Musa] I have full faith in Yasir 'Arafat. He is the only leader.

[Granot] Look at what is happening in the Gaza Strip. He cannot contain the terror.

[Musa] You, with all your might, army, police, and security apparatus could not either. You cannot demand of 'Arafat, with a government that is only now beginning to develop, that he succeed where you failed. Furthermore, you are not helping him. There is economic frustration in the Gaza Strip, which only heightens the violence. The moment 'Arafat succeeds in the economic sphere, at least 50 percent of the problems will disappear. The closure you imposed on the Gaza Strip does not help him, and the settlements only kindle the violence. Take the example of Netzarim. This is a small settlement, with 18 families, but it necessitates the Israeli army's being there, and that creates constant problems and friction. This issue must be reconsidered.

[Granot] It seems there will be no IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank before 'Arafat proves he is in full control of Gaza.

[Musa] This is a vicious circle. 'Arafat will not be able to prove that he is in full control unless you take some measures regarding the settlements, the settlers, and the redeployment.

[Granot] 'Arafat was supposed to start collecting arms. Everybody in Gaza carries arms.

[Musa] Why did you not do it when you were there? Could you do it? He is doing all he can under the current circumstances. I suppose everybody can help, but Israel can do much more because you and the Palestinians are in the same boat now. There is no other way. The process must succeed. 'Arafat is aware of the threat the extremists pose to him and to the entire peace process. Do not dismiss 'Arafat or his intelligence, integrity, and leadership.

[Granot] Do you see any affinity between the Islamic Jihad terror in Gaza and the radical terror groups in Egypt?

[Musa] No, the motives are different. They may use the same tactics, but their reasons and objectives are different.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Granot] In the past, you blamed Iran for the terror in Egypt.

[Musa] I do not intend to mention any country by name in this interview.

[Granot] And what about the terror in Sudan?

[Musa] We have very bad relations with Sudan, but we are trying to improve them.

[Granot] What do you aspire to attain?

[Musa] My ambition is to make peace succeed, and I believe this should be the goal of us all. When this is achieved, everybody here will be happy. Incidentally, President 'Ezer Weizman will visit Egypt soon, and I am already looking forward to my next visit to Israel.

Obstacles to Trade With Israel Viewed

NC2611145694 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 19 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Ahmad al-'Imlah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation of Egyptian businessmen that recently returned from a visit of several days to Israel has issued a report stressing that the Israeli leaders and business groups feel that Egypt is ignoring the Israeli entity in the region. It says that the Israelis believe that this is not helping the growth of economic relations between the two countries and is increasing the psychological barrier between the two peoples.

The report said that this Israeli feeling about the Egyptian Government's disregard has become more pronounced as a result of some simple things. According to the report, these are:

1. The maps in the book prepared by Egypt for the Casablanca conference did not show Israel at all.

2. Egyptian films and television serials deal only with spying cases and the wars between the two countries. This, according to the Israeli view, entrenches the enmities and does not help promote the development of good relations.

3. Weather reports carried by Egyptian television completely ignore Israel's cities, though they report the temperature in most countries of the region and the world.

4. Articles in Egyptian papers fortify the spirit of enmity between the two countries' citizens.

The report notes that the Israelis are now asking how a joint Egyptian-Israeli project that produces commodities or services for marketing inside Egypt could make a profit unless the partners resort to hiding this partnership from the markets and consumers in one way or another.

The report also reveals an important project floated by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during his meeting with the businessmen delegation. The project deals with the development of education in the region and calls for expanding the use of computers in primary education, to be financed by international companies specializing in computer manufacturing and programming.

The report of the delegation, which consists of 235 members of the Egyptian Businessmen's Society, notes that extensive cooperation started some time ago between Israel and the Arab countries in the Arab Maghreb and the Gulf, and that the unofficial figures for trade and investments have far exceeded its trade with Egypt even though those countries do not have diplomatic or economic relations or common borders with Israel.

The Egyptian businessmen expressed their fear that the continued gap and psychological freeze between Egypt and Israel could end with Egypt having a very small role in the region's economic cooperation.

The report points to the need to review the economies of many of the existing projects in Egypt if the country wants to catch up with the ongoing rapid developments in the region.

The report also contains several points focusing on the following:

1. The Israeli business community and leaders have a strong desire to cooperate with the Egyptian business community because Egypt has unlimited resources and advantages which many countries in the region lack.

2. Economic growth and the flow of investments in Israel are expected to double in the next few years and this will double its economic importance in the region vis-a-vis the international economic blocs and the international finance establishments.

The Egyptian delegation held intensive talks on the sidelines of the third session of the Jerusalem Business Conference with Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman, who promised to personally intervene in resolving the problem of the Dayr al-Sultan Monastery, which Israel controls. The delegation also met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who shed light on an important tourist project linking Taba, Eilat, and Aqaba as a first stage. Areas in Saudi Arabia overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba could be added to the project at a later stage. Peres also spoke during the meeting of important projects to link the electric power grids of the region's countries, build oil refineries, and extend gas pipelines. Peres noted that the problem of Dayr al-Sultan is political, adding that there is no problem that cannot be solved. He stressed that Israel is proceeding on the road to peace and development and that it will not wait for anyone who may obstruct or delay the track, as he put it.

The delegation also met with Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit as well as Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian Authority's official in Jerusalem, who called on Egyptian businessmen to invest in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

liberated Palestinian areas for the benefit of their inhabitants and to absorb as many unemployed people as possible, particularly since the jobless rate is approximately 50 percent.

The report recommends that an agreement be concluded between the Egyptian and Israeli governments to abolish the need to obtain licenses to import Egyptian goods to the Israeli and Palestinian markets, reset the customs tariff to make it equal for goods from both countries, abolish surcharges on Egyptian imports, sign agreements to safeguard investments and prevent double taxation, promote cooperation in establishing free zones at the borders linking Egypt, Palestine, and Israel, that the strategic levels of Egypt, Israel, and Jordan pay more attention to developing tourism, and that fast and direct channels of communications with major Israeli firms be opened for cooperation in establishing infrastructure projects, such as building roads and railways.

Concluding their report, the Egyptian businessmen appeal to the Egyptian and Israeli authorities to facilitate the issuance of multi-entry visas valid for as long as possible for businessmen and to ease the transit of individuals and private vehicles across their common border.

Paper Criticizes Rabin's Remarks on Golan

NC2511085494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses surprise at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In his remarks, Rabin noted that in exchange for peace Syria is asking Israel a heavy price it cannot afford—namely, withdrawal from the Golan.

In a commentary published today, the paper notes that the strange logic used by Rabin in his remarks to justify his position on reaching peace with Syria is absurd and casts heavy shadows of doubt on Israel's real intentions toward the entire Middle East peace process. The paper points out that Rabin's remarks have made everybody look on Rabin's next moves with suspicion. The newspaper adds that land for peace is the general principle on which basis the peace talks in Madrid started, a principle that Israel has agreed to. The paper asks: Does Rabin now consider its commitment to the UN rules and Security Council resolutions affirming the inadmissibility of seizing territory by force to be intransigence on Syria's part?

Donor States Urged To Honor 'Palestine' Pledges

NC2411083594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL- AKHBAR call on the world to understand the significance of President Husni Mubarak's warnings and assessment regarding the serious situation in the self-rule areas in Gaza and the West Bank. The two newspapers urge the donor states to keep the promises they made to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

In an editorial appearing in its issue today, AL-AHRAM says everyone should remember that often in the past President Mubarak's assessments have proven to be 100 percent correct. Everyone should also realize, the paper adds, that Mubarak is working for peace and development in this part of the world, which can serve as a staging point for comprehensive cooperation or as a point of disaster for the entire world.

AL-AKHBAR joins observers in asking whether the donor states' failure to keep their promises is really linked with routine and bureaucracy or is it a result of a secret or implicit understanding among those states to adopt this strange and suspicious position to embarrass the PLO and the self-rule authority.

The two papers warn against leaving the PA in the open, bemoaning its bad luck. AL-AHRAM says the self-rule region may turn into a volatile point threatening an explosion the fallout from which will affect the world, especially Europe. It says the region is qualified to become fertile soil for every consequence of despair and poverty. It is a timebomb that, if not defused safely, will cause an immense explosion, which will serve only extremists on both the Arab and Israeli sides.

In such a case, the paper says, moderate Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will disappear. This will leave two options, each worse than the other: first, the extremist organizations taking control and exporting terrorism worldwide; second, the Israeli forces retaking Gaza and Jericho, burying the Palestinian flag, undermining the entire peace process, and setting the region back dozens of years. AL-AKHBAR says that if speculation regarding the donor states' failure to keep their pledges to the PA is true, it will lead to dire consequences, not only in Palestine, but in the entire Middle East.

Musa on Palestinians, Peace, 'Terrorist Acts'

NC2511174394 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 25 (AFP)—Egypt will stick by the Palestinians in their autonomy negotiations with Israel until they have established a state of their own, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said.

"The Palestinians are the weakest link and we will not leave them alone. We will not abandon the Palestinians until they achieve self-determination and a state," Musa said in a newspaper interview published Friday [25 November].

"The Syrians can achieve a balance (of forces) with Israel, but on the Palestinian side there are many difficulties and weak points," he told the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. "Every Arab party should try to make up for it."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Musa dismissed suggestions that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had lost control of the self-rule areas in the face of opposition from Islamic hardliners such as Hamas.

But the Egyptian foreign minister warned that failure for 'Arafat would also spell failure for Israel and its self-rule deal with the PLO.

"The (peace) process must be given a chance ... by supporting Arafat until we reach the next stages," Musa said, referring to elections for a self-rule council.

Arafat's control over the territories came into question on November 18 when clashes between Palestinian police and HAMAS supporters in autonomous Gaza City killed 12 people.

"Israel should respect what they have agreed upon concerning the redeployment of its troops and Yasir 'Arafat must also repect what he signed," with the Israelis, Musa said.

Palestinian-Israeli talks on elections and an Israeli army redeployment in the West Bank are due to resume here on November 29.

[AFP at 1454 GMT on 25 November in a Cairo-datelined report adds the following:

["Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Friday defended his government's crackdown on Islamic militants, and said their two-year campaign of violence did not amount to civil war.

["'If there are terrorist acts and the use of violence, the government must respond severely' to protect the population, Musa told a Saudi newspaper. "'If the attacks are aimed at terrorizing society and tarnishing Egypt's image, then those who commit the acts should be punished,' he added.

["Fifty-eight militants have been sentenced to death since fundamentalists launched their bid to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in October 1992. Most attacks take place in the southern Minya and Asyut provinces, and are largely directed at policemen. The violence has claimed more than 500 lives.

["Musa told the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT daily: 'A civil war is completely different. If a part of a state is subjected to certain tensions and certain crimes, this does not mean there is a civil war.' He added: 'A civil war is between two sides. Can one say there is a civil war when the police chase killers?'

["Suspected militants killed an auxiliary policeman and wounded another in two separate attacks in southern Egypt on Friday, including a shooting at a mosque, police said.

["Gunmen shot dead Ahmad 'Abbas Hasan outside the village mosque of Munshat al-Mughalqah in al-Minya, 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of Cairo.

["Earlier Friday gunmen shot and seriously wounded policeman 'Isam Samir Hanna in front of a hospital in Manfalut in Asyut province."]

Mubarak Speaks With al-Asad, Turkey's Demirel

NC2711212794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak this evening received a phone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They discussed developments in the Arab arena as well as the results of the discussions Mubarak held during his recent European tour as regards the peace process in the Middle East.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak also received a phone call from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. They exchanged viewpoints over a number of issues of interest to both countries, in addition to the regional issues the president discussed during his recent European tour.

Article Rebuts U.S. Charges on Libyan Trade

NC2611184194 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 21 Nov 94 pp 6-8

[Article by 'Adil Hammudah: "Egypt: A Friend of Washington's, Should Not Be Dallying With Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It seems that the United States is "Arab" blind, which is more dangerous than being color blind. It can neither see the Arabs nor take any notice of them, even if they are friends. When the U.S. policy loses the ability to see clearly, it acts like a shark, biting at flesh, spilling blood, and swallowing any thing that moves in front of it, even if it is not hungry.

Two weeks ago, THE WASHINGTON POST published an article on Egypt written by the teeth of "Jaws." The article makes a point of "biting." It is entitled: "Egypt: A Friend of Washington's Should Not Be Dallying With Tripoli" and it is written by Jim Hoagland. The title of the article says it all, but the details say more. [passage omitted].

It is obvious that the United States is searching its old books, tampering with our pan-Arab wounds, and heating up—after the issue of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders had cooled off—the issue of sanctions against Libya. The U.S. media are playing their usual role in warming up, plowing, and preparing the ground for the Pentagon generals to jump in and score financial, not political, gains. For profit no longer comes from foreign trade, but from foreign military operations. The U.S. margin of profit during the Gulf war, for instance, amounted to approximately $30 billion.

The amazing thing is that the United States is accusing Egypt of violating the embargo imposed on Libya at a time when a blacklist has been released giving the names of U.S. and European companies that have made deals with Libya despite the Security Council resolutions. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

list, endorsed by the U.S. Treasury Department, names 13 companies and 30 individuals. Although Britain is no less strict than the United States in besieging Libya, two years ago it imported approximately 1.6 million tons of petroleum products and in return exported goods to Libya to the tune of $438 million. The United States secretly backed the replacement of the French technicians who were maintaining Boeing aircraft with Serbian technicians. When Libya embarrassed the United States and declared that the Serbs in Libya were working under private contracts, the U.S. Treasury Department replied that Serbia is not a UN member.

The United States still has five oil companies operating in Libya: Conoco, Hees, Occidental, Grace, and Marathon. A few days ago Spain signed a contract with Libya to increase bilateral trade to narrow its trade deficit, which is tilting in favor of Libya. Under the agreement, Spain's exports to Libya will rise to $300 million per annum. Australia was more courageous. A few days ago it decided to lift the trade sanctions imposed on Libya and accused the European states, particularly France and Britain, of maintaining active trade ties with Libya while seeking formally to isolate and boycott it.

Despite the economic sanctions, Italy's largest oil company, Agip, has signed an oil and gas exploration agreement with Libya. The agreement also includes the extension of a gas pipeline between Libya and southern Italy.

Exports of Italian goods to Libya increased by at least 30 percent during the blockade. The Tyre Company of Thailand has built underground tunnels for use during times of war.

The whole world has overcome or circumvented the sanctions and dealt with Libya. What is behind this sudden U.S. anger with Egypt, which has reached the extent of threats to cut off aid and withdraw political support in the confrontation with terrorism?

The sanctions imposed on Libya are described as ambiguous. The European countries have even said that the sanctions are voluntary or random, that is, every country can interpret them as it likes and according to its interests. For example, the freeze imposed on Libyan assets excepts companies in which European or Asian countries have shares. The exclusion of funds coming from the export of oil, gas, and agricultural products has also created loopholes in the sanctions.

The United States knows that it will not succeed in convincing the European countries to impose an oil embargo on Libya because those countries depend on Libyan oil for 95 per cent of their needs. Hence, those countries have continued their close cooperation with Libya despite their agreement to the embargo. Everybody kept silent when Silvian Baker [name as transliterated], the prominent German intelligence officer, visited Libya; and the United States did not raise the issue because security cooperation between Libya and Europe is done with its knowledge.

They are the ones, then, with the right to impose an embargo and to violate it. They are the ones leveling accusations against others too. But the U.S. blacklist does not contain a single Egyptian name.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has denied that any of the U.S. officials accompanying Clinton during his recent tour made any confidential and secret demand to any Egyptian official—as the WASHINGTON TIMES reported—on the importing of Egyptian goods by Libya. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has even denied that the Lockerbie issue was discussed during the few hours that the U.S. delegation spent in Cairo, saying that the talks between the two sides centered on the peace negotiations only.

'Amr Musa summed up Egypt's stand on the Libyan crisis to ROSE AL-YUSUF like this:

"Egypt is committed to and respects the Security Council resolutions, but is against escalating them for the sake of the Libyan people. As for the crisis itself, there is no dispute over the trial of the defendants; the dispute is over the trial's venue."

Finally, we say that the U.S. shark is searching for new prey in the Arab world and is preparing to butcher it. We believe that it is Libya's turn; and incidentally, there is no harm in hitting Egypt below the belt.

U.S. Republican Policy 'Serious Change'

NC2811112494 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 16

["An Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The disaster of the earthquake and the disaster of the floods were not enough. We are now hit by another misfortune, that of cutting off or largely cutting down on American aid to Egypt. Unfortunately, Egypt depends heavily on this aid.

The failure of the Democratic Party and the victory of Republicans in the U.S. elections will lead to catastrophes in many countries, except Israel. The Republican Party's program calls for canceling or making big cuts in American aid and says no aid should be given except to the countries that fully support the American policy. This means that if we disagree with the United States in our policy toward Libya, the aid will be cut off; if we pursue an independent policy, we will be deprived of U.S. aid; and if we adopt a policy on Bosnia against that of the United States, we will be banned from receiving aid.

This is not rumor, a conclusion, or prophecy. Senator Jesse Helms, the new Republican chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, has announced that his country is thinking of abolishing USAID, as this would be better for the United States. The Foreign Relations Committee drafts the foreign policy to which

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the government is committed, especially since the Republican Party now enjoys the majority in the U.S. Senate.

We must start preparing ourselves for this sudden development. Egypt must be ready to rely on itself by reducing its spending, stopping the policy of extravagance and luxury, decreasing the number of visits and celebrations, halting unnecessary projects, and trying to improve its foreign relations.

When Senator Helms was asked whether he wants the aid to Israel to continue, to be reduced, or to be canceled altogether, he replied: We have no sincere ally in that region other than Israel!

This new policy will shake and distort the image of the United States in the world and threaten U.S. policy. We hope the Republican Party will reconsider this serious change.

Writer Slams U.S. for Jerusalem Embassy Site

NC2511132294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Nov 94 p 8

[From the "Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "U.S.- Israeli Circumvention"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The complete organic coordination between the Rabin government and President Clinton's administration raises many questions about the credibility of U.S. role in the peace process and its ability to be "an honest broker," which the U.S. Government has long claimed to do. At the height of the ongoing controversy over Jerusalem and the differences between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat over Jordan's religious supervision of the holy places—which the Palestinians consider as contesting some of their rights to Jerusalem and a delay on the status of the problem on agreement that it will one of the issues handled in the final stage of the negotiations—everyone, except of course Israel, is surprised to learn that the U.S. Government has actually chosen a site south of Jerusalem and signed a contract to build a U.S. Embassy on it. This means that the United States has practically declared that it has opted for Israel's claim to consider Jerusalem as its capital. The United States has thus recognized in advance Israel's claims, even before negotiations have begun among the parties concerned, as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which President Clinton signed as a witness.

This U.S. step is strangely timed, coinciding with legislation that the Rabin government seeks to pass denying the Palestinians the right to carry out any political activity in Jerusalem in order to prevent any official visits to Palestinians in Jerusalem by foreign heads of state and ministers, as the Turkish prime minister did, visits that might suggest a kind of recognition of Palestinian rights to that city.

The U.S. measure can only be described as a sort of circumvention of the U.S. policy vis-a-vis Jerusalem, which Washington claims it has not changed. Suffice it to say that Washington said that it is preparing to build a U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, even though it might not to move into it before 1999, so that everyone will realize where the United States stands on this problem and which side it takes, despite the clear effect of this step on the method of solving the problem of Jerusalem.

Instead of adhering to every iota of their rights in Jerusalem to the end, it is regrettable that certain Arab leaders have given the green light for an era of free concessions, by which they recognized the status quo before it was established, saying that Jerusalem will not revert to what it was, even the holy places. What is happening in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque is a model for what will happen in the future.

Shaykh al-Ghazali Assailed for Inciting Violence

NC2611123194

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic on 21 November publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word article by Jamal Salim under the headline "The Islam Manipulation Shaykhs" in which he assails Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali as an offender of Islam. The writer begins: "We thought Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali would stop his campaign, which is harmful to Islam and Muslims, after giving his testimony in the case of martyr Faraj Fudah's assassination in June 1993—a testimony in which he portrayed Islam as a bloody religion thirsty for killing and shedding blood." After suggesting that al-Ghazali's court testimony "established that martyr Fudah was an apostate and thus deserved to be killed," the writer comes to al-Ghazali's new statement: "This time, Shaykh al-Ghazali extends an explicit invitation to the mercenaries to assassinate writers, intellectuals, and artists." He cites al-Ghazali as writing in the opposition paper AL-SHA'B: "We wonder about the presence of people who hate God very much, who extremely resent Islam, antagonize religious inspiration, and say to 'Ali 'Abd-al-Raziq and Najib Mahfuz: We will publish your books against your will. I know writers who have never had the honor of kneeling before God. The state hurts itself by leaving these people alone."

The writer wonders who gave al-Ghazali the power to judge people or to interfere in whether they kneel before God or not. Even if Fudah and Mahfuz were apostates, he argues, it is none of al-Ghazali's business. He maintains that Islam, as evident in Koranic texts, is much more tolerant: "But this shaykh, who is harming Islam and Muslims, and who is expressing the views of the Islam manipulation groups, did not read the Koran well, or perhaps did not understand it."

The writer gives al-Ghazali this piece of advice: "Fear God, shaykh; return to your home and stay there and think of what you and your colleague who is imprisoned in New York [Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman] have

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

committed." He concludes: "Those colluding with you from among services, officials, and those lying in wait for our country cannot continue. The masks must fall from their faces one after the other. Stop claiming that you are talking in the name of Islam and for its sake. You are speaking on behalf of the Islam manipulation group against the interests of Islam, the homeland, and people. Take the masks off, you who are lying in wait for our country."

'Terrorist Leader' Killed, 3 Arrested in Raid

NC2711124694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist leader was killed and three others were arrested in a raid by Asyut security forces on the graveyard in Manfalut. Investigations had shown that a number of terrorists were hiding in the area. The terrorists exchanged fire with the police. In the shoot-out, a terrorist was killed, and three others were arrested.

An automatic rifle, two magazines, three pistols, and some organizational papers were found in the possession of the three terrorists. Leaders of Asyut security inspected the scene, and the prosecution opened an investigation.

Sudan

Rise in Army Casualties, Discharges Reported

MM2811101894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Nov 94 p1

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Rate of Pensioned-Off Sudanese Army Personnel Up 78 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A military report in Khartoum has revealed that the number of Sudanese Army officers pensioned off in the period from 1989 to 1993 was 52 percent more than previous averages, and the number of warrant officers and soldiers pensioned off in the period from 1988 to 1993 increased by 77.8 percent.

The report—prepared by a military committee—a copy of which was obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, says that the number of officers killed (mainly in the war in the south) in the period from 1989 to 1993 increased by 36.6 percent while the number of the warrant officers and soldiers killed in the same period increased by 66.8 percent.

These figures reflect the tremendous changes in the Sudanese Army's structure since the late eighties and the increasing number of casualties in the war in the south which has been sharply escalated.

Because of the increased number of officers and soldiers killled, wounded, or pensioned off, the monthly pension payments made by the state have increased to about 234 million pounds. According to figures examined by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the number of officers pensioned off in the period from 1989 to 1993 has reached 1,500 officers, and the number of soldiers pensioned off in the same period is estimated at 56,000 compared with 26,000 in the period from 1982 to 1988.

According to that report, the number of officers killed in the war in the south in the period from 1989 to 1993 is estimated at 500 officers, and the number of warrant officers and soldiers killed in the same period has reached 50,000, that is five times the number killed in the period from the mid-seventies to 1988.

The report says that the number of officers pensioned off in the period from 1977 to 1993 is estimated at about 3,500 officers, approximately half of them after 1989. The number of warrant officers and soldiers pensioned off in 1993 is estimated at 30,000 compared with 12,000 in 1982.

It should be noted that these figures do not include 1994 in which the number of casualties in the escalating war in the south is expected to increase. The large number of war wounded and pensioners has become a major burden on the state's treasury. Many retired officers and soldiers and others are complaining about the high cost of living. Military pensioners and war wounded staged two demonstrations over the past few months requesting improvement in their living conditions and pensions.

The burdens on the retired officers and soldiers were made worse by inflation and the rising general cost of living. Because of the repeated complaints by officers and soldiers about high prices and their raising the matter during President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's enlightenment tours of military units, the army command last month issued a secret circular to the commanders of the various units saying that such issues should not be raised with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir during his tours. The circular said that "private matters shoud not be raised" during Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's inspection of the various units, on the grounds that that would "adversely affect discipline."

Radio Criticizes Mubarak Visit to Europe

EA2711190494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 27 Nov 94

["Political" commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. Heroic Sudanese people: The land of Egypt is reeling from the impact of revolution and anger while battles are waged between the oppression of the regime and the will of the people. People are tiring of the regime and it is finding it has little room to maneuver.

Now the president of the regime [Egyptian President Husni Mubarak] is traveling to Europe to reveal his sadness and lament the vicissitudes of time, wrapping

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

himself in the rags of weakness to excite Europe's sympathy so that it may give him the support he needs.

Perhaps the trader in causes and principles has failed to find any other commodity with a better market among the Europeans than Islamic fundamentalism. It has become the (?center) of his meetings and the secret of his deception. He says he is capable of curbing it and warding it off from the shores of Europe.

Now that the Egyptian president has to provide some proof, he has found none other than Sudan on which to off-load the bulk of his claims. He has presented to his elderly master, Britain, a fabricated sheet of accusations urging it to dispatch a new Kitchener to take a horse provided by the Egyptian regime which will carry him to Sudan once again in a repetition of history.

However, the tour will fail completely because its objective is persistent begging, as is widely known, and because Egypt today has no independent political role to play. It is simply an evil ear responding to what is dictated to it. There is nothing really between it and the West except the crumbs Europe throws to Egypt before asking it to adopt stands which are shameful and hostile to the ideals of its Muslim-Arab nation.

For its planned role in the defeat of the ummah [Muslim community] and the sacrificing of the Palestinian cause, it has received a useless and ill-gotten gain. It has achieved nothing but stagnation in trade and tumult. The government has proved incapable of providing relief for its affected victims. It has been angered by the swiftness of others in providing assistance.

It is possible that the Egyptian regime is turning toward Europe as a result of American estrangement after it got what it wanted and now the signs of divorce have become apparent. The U.S. press has revealed the practices of torture and oppression of prisoners and the violation of their honor as well as the restriction of freedoms. The U.S. press has exposed the lie of one-party democracy and the restrictions on the views of trade unionists and professionals. The U.S. press has written about the deteriorating health situation and the spread of cholera because of the collapse of the environment. It has called for a review of American assistance to Egypt because there was no longer any justification for providing it.

There is no longer any tension in the Middle East and Egypt no longer has the role it used to have. And now the little state of the Jews is receiving blessings and recognition from the Arab front-line states and has succeeded in tightening its economic grip on the Arab region at the Casablanca conference. Then what role does Egypt have for which it deserves a reward?

The answer is Mubarak's function: namely, combating the Islamic tide, and strangulating it through its central security system and the gallows in Egypt. He seeks British assistance (?to blockade) Sudan. He reminds them about gifts promised to the Gaza-Jericho authority which have vanished under the glare of the daylight. This is to deny the Muslims the right to criticize or legitimacy for their revolution and acceptance of their suffering. [passage omitted]

This [Egypt] is a bankrupt regime. It has lost its way. It lies when it claims to be Muslim because it is opposed to Islam and is hostile to it. It is killing preachers and destroying the mosques and takes from women students their veils of modesty.

It lies when it claims to be Arab because it has violated Arabism for the benefit of the Jews. It enabled the Europeans to strike at the source of its strength and to enslave it. It is lying when it claims to be calling for unity because it is breaking the bonds of kinship and the ties of neighborliness. It has betrayed the countries which are based on Arab cooperation. It has abandoned it Arabism but then returned to support the communist rebellion in Yemen. It has given shelter to the stupid men of the [Sudanese] alliance as a plot against Sudan. [passage omitted]

Sudan will survive because God wills it and it is in accordance with the choice of its people, a nation of Muslims raising the banner of hard work on high. [passage omitted]

God is great and honor to Sudan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi Foreign Minister on GCC Iraq Policy

LD2411022894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sau'd al-Faisal, the foreign minister, stressed that there is no gap in the stances of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states toward Iraq. In a statement yesterday, and which was reported by WAKH, he said there is a common conviction among GCC member states with regard to the need for full implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions because they are the sole guarantee for stability in the region.

In reply to a question on the possibility of the resumption of normal relations between GCC members states and Iraq, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faisal said that the problem is not in the GCC member states, but in Iraq, because it is Iraq that carried out an aggression against Kuwait. He pointed out that there are international resolutions which Iraq must implement so that stability returns and so that the states of the region and the whole world are reassured that that issue will not be repeated.

With regard to Iraq's step to recognize the State of Kuwait, His Highness the foreign minister said that statements were issued, and that step will only be completed with the implementation of all the resolutions.

On the Damascus Declaration, His Highness said that a meeting was held lately by the Damascus Declaration member states and that there was a committee from the eight member states that will meet next January. He also said that ideas were put forward and the GCC member states agreed on the formula of putting them forward at that committee.

GCC Chief Discusses Upcoming Summit in Bahrain

JN2411201394 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Nov. 24 (GNA)—GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi said the 15th GCC summit due to open in Bahrain on Dec. 19-21 will discuss a bulk of political, security, economic and cultural topics.

The regional and economic situation in general would be discussed with a special emphasis on consolidating the GCC economic march and then an overall evaluation of the international economic situation and the GCC relevant role would also be taken up by the GCC leaders, Shaykh al-Qasimi said in an interview with Qatari News Agency.

Al-Qasimi who is now visiting Qatar, paid tribute to the tremendous efforts the GCC leaders have been exerting for the welfare and prosperity of the peoples of the area specially amid the current security circumstances.

He described the 53rd ministerial preparatory meeting which wound up in Manama yesterday as successful as the various committees intensified deliberations on issues of concern to the GCC march including economic, regional and international issues and improving relations among the member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf.

Al-Qasimi reiterated that maintaining stability of the Gulf area could first be achieved through the will of its citizens and their brethren and through the international legitimacy noting that the stability of the Gulf area is of due concern to the entire world due to the presence of 45 percent of the world oil reserves in addition to 15 percent of the natural gas in the area.

Replying to a question on obstacles impeding implementation of the Unified Economic Agreement, al-Qasimi told QNA that many of the agreement articles have already been carried out but some of them faced difficulty and others haven't been carried out so far.

He pointed out that commodities of national origin are in circulation freely among the GCC members in addition to practicing of trade activities and real estate ownership by the GCC citizens and matters which have already been implemented within such agreement.

Elaborating, he said the main obstacle impeding the optimal performance of the Unified Economic Agreement is the issue of the Unified Customs Tariffs noting however that this issue hasn't been achieved as each member state will lose part of its revenue specially those countries whose revenue mainly depends on customs tariffs.

Referring to the resolution adopted by the 14th GCC summit last year in Riyadh relating to consolidating and boosting defence cooperation among the GCC members, al-Qasimi expressed the hope the Bahrain summit would add a new dimension in this respect.

Replying to a question on his viewpoint about the stability of the Gulf region in light of the current international changes, al- Qasimi underlined the importance of maintaining the Gulf security and stability.

Elaborating, he said that each member state of the GCC will build itself militarily to deter any hazards that could threaten the GCC members in addition to agreeing on consolidating the Arabian Peninsula Shield Force and stepping up its personnel.

It was also agreed to set up a unified military communications network among the GCC members in addition to [word indistinct] warning network, al-Qasimi told QNA noting that this reflects the determination of the GCC leaders to depend on ourselves and then on brothers and friends.

Says Iraq's Intentions Should Be 'Tested'

LD2511132394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Doha, 25 Nov (KUNA)—Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Secretary General

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi has stressed that Iraq's intentions should be tested regarding its recognition of the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and its political independence and international border despite the fact that this step is regarded as being a step in the right direction. He expressed hope that this step will be followed by similar steps by Iraq.

In a statement to KUNA in Doha today he said that "we should test this Iraqi step" because Iraq recognized the State of Kuwait for 30 years but it did not have any consideration for that recognition and occupied Kuwait. Shaykh al-Qasimi who is visiting Qatar stressed that proceeding from this point the mere word recognition cannot therefore be relied upon. It is important that we should test Iraq's behavior and future intentions.

Al-Qasimi denied that there are differences among GCC member states in their policies via-a-vis Iraq. He noted that decisions have been taken by the GCC summit, that all member states are committed to those decisions, and that there are no differences on that. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on whether the issue of the border disputes between the GCC states will be presented to the Gulf summit in Manamah during the period 19-21 December 1994, Shaykh Fahim al- Qasimi said: "The summit will discuss all that is liable to consolidate the council's march for the interest and benefit of the peoples in the region. It will also discuss all regional and international issues related to the council."

The GCC secretary general affirmed that attention is focused on the Bahrain summit, stressing that each summit consolidates the march which the leaders of the council have attended to for the benefit of this region. He added: "The achievements attained by the GCC cannot be put in a material framework that is clearly visible," stressing that "the council has attained many achievements at the political and economic levels."

In this respect he recalled the joint stance on the events which swept the region such as the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the economic achievements such as the unified economic agreement which he said has brought about many benefits in the interest of the Gulf citizen, some of which have already been achieved and others are about to be.

Regarding the UAE [United Arab Emirates]-Iranian dispute over Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa islands, Shaykh al-Qasimi said that Iran is a Muslim neighboring country and we wish to maintain good relations with her.

Regarding the unified Gulf market the GCC secretary general pointed out that this subject is still on its way. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the peace processes in the Middle East, Shaykh al-Qasimi said that the attitude of the GCC member States has been well known ever since the beginning of the process—from the Madrid conference. It is summed up as: Total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories; the peace process should be on the basis of land for peace, particularly with regard to Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Arab boycott of Israel Shaykh al-Qasimi said that the GCC member states regard the secondary and tertiary boycott as not being applied at the present time with regard to companies dealing with Israel and therefore they have supported the lifting of this boycott. As for primary boycott—which is the direct boycott—this is within the jurisdiction of the Arab League and the lifting of such a boycott should be made by the League. He reaffirmed that the GCC member states are committed to that, and that when the League lifts this boycott there will be no objection by the member states to do likewise on condition that there will be progress in the peace process along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

GCC Council Hails 'Constructive' Russian Role

JN2611162194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 26 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister and chairman of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has sent a message to Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, in reply to the message which the Ministerial Council received from him during its 53d preparatory session held in Manama on 22-23 November.

In his message, Kozyrev expressed his country's concern about the security of the Gulf region and its readiness to participate in any steps that will bolster security and stability in the region.

In his message, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah expressed the thanks of the GCC Ministerial Council and the desire of its states to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with the Russian Federation in various fields to enhance joint interests.

The foreign minister expressed the GCC states' appreciation for the constructive role the Russian Federation is playing as an important and permanent Security Council member in ensuring the full implementation of Security Council Resolutions related to the Gulf region in a manner that preserves security and stability for its states and welfare for its peoples.

GCC Interior Ministers Begin Session in Riyadh

LD2711193294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1428 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyad, 27 Nov SPA—Their Royal Highnesses and Excellencies the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] interior ministers started their 13th session at the Conferences Palace in Riyadh at midday today, under the chairmanship of Interior Minister His

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and the attendance of their Highnesses and Excellencies the GCC interior ministers. Then, his Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud delivered the following speech.

In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate. [passage omitted]

The fast changes which are taking place around us in our regional and the wider international spheres, require from us more cohesion and more cooperation.

If we have achieved some progress in some fields in the joint cooperation march, we have to admit that there are essential matters in which we have not achieved what we all aspire to. Among these matters there is "the security agreement" which, as we see, represents the cornerstone with regard to any security or economic cooperation. As you know, the security agreement was the subject of more study and examination than any other document. [passage omitted]

I call on our brothers to overcome all the obstacles, whatever they may be, to reach an action in which we feel, as officials and as citizens, that something we can take pride in has been achieved and take pride in our contribution towards its creation, namely the principle of the unity of the security of the region, and that the citizens of its states are equal before the law whichever state they happen to be in.

If we are able to achieve that important principle, then we would be able to look into the other ramifications, such as the movement of the council's citizens within its states, their employment and residence.

However, to demand an agreement on ramifications prior to agreement on the bases would be, as you are aware, like putting the cart before the horse.

Undoubtedly, your attendance of this meeting despite your responsibilities and concerns is an acknowledgment of the historic responsibility which we all bear by virtue of our responsibility for the security of our countries and citizens at this juncture ... [ellipses as received] It is the most sincere expression of the affirmation of our common desire to continue our contribution in laying strong practical bases for building their overall and firm security structure, with God's assistance. [passage omitted]

Saudi Minister on 'Terrorism,' Labor

LD2811094194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2355 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, interior minister and chairman of the current session of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] interior ministers' meeting, expressed his hope that the meeting would lead to the endorsement of the security agreement. His highness told journalists after the first session that the agenda was reviewed and endorsed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz answered a question on terrorism, saying "we have not left any issue undiscussed. This does not mean that it exists in our countries, but we discuss the issues and take everything into consideration. We will always be ready to confront any issue because we do not leave matters until they happen and then think about how to confront them. The contrary is true. We do not live in an isolated world but we live in the world, and what is happening to the world could happen to us."

He pointed out that there should be a conception and knowledge of everything taking place in the world, in addition to coordinating with the GCC countries in this or any other sphere. He pointed out that coordination exists among these countries.

Concerning foreign labor and the security obsession, his highness stressed that the security obsession existed but refused to charge all foreign labor with the disadvantages. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Says Government Aims To Serve Citizens

LD2311143394 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 23, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz has reiterated the keenness of the state in serving the citizens and ensuring their comfort.

Addressing a group of 'ulema (Islamic scholars), sheikhs and citizens here last night, the Saudi monarch said the measures recently taken by the state including the establishment of the Consultative Council and the Councils of the Regions, would help the state in shouldering its responsibility towards the service of the citizens.

He pointed out that the Kingdom's judges and ulema solve the problems in the light of the teachings of the holy Quran and Sunnah (the Prophet's teachings).

The monarch urged the concerned authorities to settle the problems of the citizens immediately without any delay in a way that ensure their comfort.

The king said that the Kingdom is proud of implementing the Islamic shariah and noted that the doors of the rulers would always remain open for the reception of the citizens.

"I do feel my responsibility towards the citizens and I thank the almighty Allah for having with me sincere men who dedicate their efforts in the service of their religion and country, he said and added "I pray to the almighty Allah to preserve our religion and to bestow us with bounties, security and stability."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saddam Husayn Carries Out State Functions

Allocates Funds for Marsh Arabs

JN2711181694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah—AL-THAWRAH has learned that President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 71.25 million dinars for restoration of electricity, pavement of roads, and other services projects as well as building health centers and schools in the villages of the marsh inhabitants living on the banks of the al-'Izz River.

This was announced by Governor Latif Mahal Humud who said: This is one of the kind and generous offers by the leader president to the sons of his people living on the banks of the al-'Izz River.

Presides Over Officials' Meeting

JN2611212694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has presided over a meeting which included Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Industry and Minerals Minister Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Cabinet Secretary Khalil Yasin al-Ma'muri, and Central Bank Governor 'Isam Rashid Huwaysh.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the meeting.

Orders Funds for Irrigation Project

JN2711152094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 16 million dinars to extend irrigation water to the agricultural lands and orchards in the al-Faris district in the Salah al-Din Governorate.

This was announced by Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir. He told an Iraqi News Agency correspondent that the engineering cadres of the al-Qadisiyah Company for Land Reclamation will immediately start implementing the leader president's order. He said the order includes establishing earth canals and underground networks and systems in the western part of the al-Ishaqi project, as well as similar systems of feeding canals, road bridges, and siphons. He indicated this generous gesture is intended to expand the area of agricultural land by resolving the problem of the scarcity of irrigation water in this area.

Visits Textile Industries Exhibition

JN2711164994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has visited the exhibition of textile industries held by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

His excellency the president toured the pavilions at the exhibition, which included ready-made clothes for all age groups, as well as cotton, silk, and wool textiles.

During his excellency the president's tour of the exhibition pavilions, Minister of Industry and Minerals Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan provided explanations on the production level achieved in this area. He briefed the president on progress in this sector, saying this progress has contributed to meeting the needs of our people in this area.

For his part, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn commended the huge development achieved in this area. He praised the Iraqis' jihad, as well as their sincere and noble efforts to mitigate the impact of the unfair sanctions clamped on our people.

His excellency the president also paid tribute to the patient Iraqis' resolve, saying the entire world is a witness to their self- reliance, particularly because they have done the impossible in order to cope with hardship and to foil the aggressive scheme targeting them.

The State Enterprise for Ready-Made Clothes and Cotton, Silk, and Wool Industries contributed to the exhibition.

RCC Discusses Sanctions, 'Intransigent' U.S. Stand

JN2611153894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a Revolution Command Council [RCC] meeting. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz briefed the RCC on the UN Security Council's recent deliberations following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and his visit to Spain.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Head of the President's Office Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi attended the meeting.

An official spokesman made the following statement after the meeting: It is obvious that the international community views this Iraqi move, along with the UN Security Council resolutions it has implemented, as steps that will inevitably pave the way to lifting the [word indistinct] blockade on Iraq. The spokesman said: The main obstacle to this is the intransigent U.S. stand, which has nothing to with the UN Security Council resolutions. It is a stand that is isolated within the international community in general and within the UN

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Security Council in particular. Security Council carry out its obligations toward Iraq and to start lifting the blockade at the first opportunity.

RCC Decree Links, Merges State Organizations

JN2711182194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree placing the Central Board for Standardization and Quality Control under the head of the Prime Ministry's Secretariat and linking the National Center for Electronic Calculators to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The decree also provides for merging the National Center for Administrative Planning and Development to the Center for Financial and Accountancy training in one center to be called the Center for Administrative and Financial Development linked to the Ministry of Finance. Following is text of the decree:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 194 dated 4 Jumada al-Akhirah 1415 Hegira corresponding to 7 November 1994.

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decrees as follows:

First: 1. The Central Board for Standardization and Quality Control, which was founded under Law No. 54 of 1979 shall be linked to the head of the Prime Ministry's Secretariat and shall assume the tasks and powers stipulated in its law and other existing laws and regulations.

2. The board's employment rules shall continue to apply to its employees who shall receive the remunerations given to employees of the Prime Ministry's Secretariat.

Second: The National Center for Electronic Calculators, which was founded under Law No. 100 of 1972 shall be linked to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and shall assume the tasks and powers stipulated in its law.

Third: 1. The National Center for Administrative Planning and Development, which was founded under RCC Decree No. 677 dated 2 August 1988; and the Center for Financial and Accountancy Training, which was founded under Law No. 93 of 1981 shall be merged into one center to be called the Center for Administrative and Financial Development. The center shall be linked to the Ministry of Finance and shall be headed by a director general with at least a university degree who is experienced and specialized in this field. The center shall replace the two canceled centers in all their rights and obligations.

2. The center shall assume the tasks and powers of the National Center for Administrative Planning and Development and the Center for Financial and Accountancy Training which are stipulated in their respective laws and any law or decree relating to their tasks and powers.

3. The minister of finance is empowered to determine the center's table of organization, tasks, and powers under a by-law.

4. The employment rules of the canceled National Center for Administrative Planning and Development shall apply to the employees of this center.

Fourth: The rights and obligations of the board and the centers stipulated in this decree shall be transferred to the quarters to which they are associated.

Fifth: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Ba'th Party Official Reportedly Kidnapped, Killed

NC2711203694 Paris AFP in English 1946 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Nov 27 (AFP)—A ruling Ba'th party official in southern Iraq was kidnapped and killed recently, an Iraqi opposition radio said Sunday [27 November].

Lafta 'Uwayd, secretary of the party section in al-Basrah, 550 kilometres (330 miles) southeast of Baghdad, was kidnapped in the city centre with his bodyguards on November 15, the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) said.

'Uwayd's corpse was found on November 18 on the road linking al- Basrah to al-'Amarah, 240 kilometres (144 miles) southeast of Baghdad, according to the statement monitored in Cyprus.

The radio did not say what happened to 'Uwayd's bodyguards. It said they were travelling in four cars when they were kidnapped.

The IBC is the radio of the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of several groups based in Kurdish-held northern Iraq. the al-Basrah-al-'Amarah road after this incident," the statement said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Talabani, Barzani Chair PUK-KDP Talks

JN2311214694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The political bureaus of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] held a joint meeting under Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani for joint cooperation to effect the following:

1. Implementing and promoting plans by the Kurdistan region's government and parliament.

2. Changing the region's government by allotting five cabinet portfolios to each of the PUK and KDP and five more for the other parties. The empowerment will take place as soon as possible after consultations with all the [Kurdistan] Front's parties.

3. Expanding the government's political structure, bringing in all parties to participate, and utilizing the citizens' qualifications and resources in all fields.

4. Forming a joint committee and a center to implement the provisions of the new agreement they have reached.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Terrorist' Shooting Attack Reported Near Hebron

One Killed, Another Wounded

TA2711104494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] One Israeli citizen was killed and another was wounded in a terrorist shooting attack south of the Hebron hills about an hour ago. The two were riding a car when several shots were fired at them as they were passing the village of al-Fawwar. The driver lost control of the car and it overturned. A passing car summoned help, and the two casualties were taken to the settlement of Bet Hagay for treatment. There, it was determined that the driver was dead. The passenger, who was wounded, was taken to a Jerusalem hospital. Searches are being carried at site of the attack.

Rabin: Radical Muslims Behind Attack

TA2711165994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's murder is another despicable murder, and I have no doubt that radical Islamic elements—the Islamic Jihad or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—are responsible. This obliges us to continuously reassess our methods of operation. These remarks were made today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Nisim Qeynan, our correspondent in the south, during the inauguration of a Haifa Chemicals plant in the Negev.

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA2711125194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A member of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad just telephoned our studio and claimed responsibility for today's terrorist attack in the Hebron hills.

Al-Quds Radio on 'Heroic Armed Operation'

JN2711182994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our valiant men in the Hebron area carried out a daring armed operation at 1100 today. They opened fire on a vehicle driven by Zionist settlers on the Bani-Na'im road near the Zionist Hagay settlement. One Zionist settler was killed and another wounded in the daring operation.

Our correspondent reported that enemy forces rushed to the scene, imposed a curfew, and started to storm homes [words indistinct] a large-scale campaign to search for the perpetrators of the heroic armed operation, but in vain.

Baraq: Number, Quality of Attacks To Rise

TA2711120294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The chief of staff expects the number of attacks against Israelis to increase. He told today's cabinet meeting their level of sophistication will rise, and this will make it more difficult to thwart. Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq told the ministers that talk about removing settlements is interpreted as weakness by the Palestinian side and causes an increase in incidents. The prime minister and Baraq provided detailed reports on the situation. Next week's session will consist of a political discussion in which the ministers will express their views.

Rabin also reported of his meeting in Spain with Yasir 'Arafat. He said he made it clear to 'Arafat that the outpost in Netzarim will not be evacuated, and the soldiers will not withdraw, even in the presence of many demonstrators.

Major General Dani Rothschild reported on the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demonstration in Gaza yesterday, which he described as a show of power. Rothschild is due to continue the talks on early empowerment with the Palestinians tomorrow in Brussels.

[In a live report from the Prime Minister's Office by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 27 November, Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, speaking at the close of the cabinet session, comments on Baraq's statement saying:

["Currently, this is an internal Palestinian problem and the shooting is a matter they will have to address." He further says that Israel should "bolster 'Arafat's status in the territories without physically intervening."

[Asked about the seriousness of the plan to pull the army out of the urban centers in the West Bank, Minister Yosi Sarid says: "I do not believe that such an offer has been made, therefore I do not have to determine whether it is serious or not. Had anyone raised it, I would have said it is not serious because, to a large extent, it is improbable and impossible to implement. I believe no one would raise offers with such very slim chances of success."]

Peres Opposes Death Sentence for 'Terrorist'

TA2511164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he was vehemently opposed to the death sentence imposed on the terrorist who planned the bus bombing attack in Hadera. Speaking at the Tel Aviv Commercial Club, Peres said that he was proud that Israel was not a gallows-state and noted that death sentences would not deter potential suicide attackers. Peres added that a terrorist who knew he faced a death sentence would fight more fiercely than one who knew he had some chance of staying alive.

Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the foreign minister spoke about his meeting with Prime Minister Rabin today and said that the two men had discussed the continuation of negotiations on the Palestinian track and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the meetings scheduled with Palestinian leaders in Brussels next Monday [28 November]. Minister Peres added that the main agreement reached at the meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin in Spain yesterday was to continue the negotiations.

Sarid To Brief Rabin, Peres on Visit to Jordan

TA2611125394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid was in Jordan yesterday and met with a number of officials, including Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. The visit was defined as private, but Sarid also met with the Jordanian transport minister at his home near al-Karamah, in the Jordan Valley. Sarid will report on his trip to Jordan to Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres.

Peres Departs for Donors Meeting, To Meet 'Arafat

TA2711061094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres leaves this morning for Brussels, where he'll take part in talks with donor countries on raising funds for the Palestinian Authority [PA]. While in Belgium, Peres will also hold discussions with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. On Tuesday, Israel and the PLO will begin talks in Brussels on extending Palestinian autonomy. Later this week, Foreign Minister Peres will meet with Pope John Paul II in Italy. The foreign minister told Amy Rhodes about his trip to the Belgian capital today:

[Begin recording] [Peres] We have actually four different issues on the agenda: one is the donors meeting; then there is the renewal of the negotiations between us and the PLO; the third is our own position in the European Union; and the fourth is the Jordanian water project.

[Rhodes] It has been reported that you are going to try and get more aid for the PA. Can you tell us about that?

[Peres] Basically the donors have addressed the aid for a project, and now we need a little bit of money for the recurrent expenses, which is $150 million. I hope this will be done.

[Rhodes] Saudi Arabia, for the first time last night, transferred some $5 million to the PA to help fund their police force. What is your reaction to that?

[Peres] Well, I do not pay to it too much attention. You know, Israel has donated more than Saudi Arabia.

[Rhodes] Yesterday, there was a mass rally held in Gaza and it seemed to go by fairly peacefully. Do you think this is any indication that things are quieting down there?

[Peres] I hope so because in Gaza they have to decide if the Palestinian people can act together and live together under a recognized authority because although there is always room for many views, there no room for many armed forces. That is the test of the Palestinians in Gaza. They are going to decide the future of the Palestinian people, not the future of Israel.

[Rhodes] Now, you will be in Europe, and the EU has said that within the coming days it will cancel its arms boycott of Syria. How do you think that affects Israel and the balance of arms in the Middle East?

[Peres] Well, I regret it, but I do not think that this is now the major issue.

[Rhodes] You are meeting later in the week with Pope John Paul II. Can you tell us a little bit about this meeting?

[Peres] It is an important meeting. You know, our relations with the Vatican were much improved and we hope to improve it further. We are going to have, at the end of this week, a meeting of the three monotheistic religions in Spain, and the religious leaders can help a great deal the political leaders really to restore peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 27 November reports on rumors that Peres will meet Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' who will be in Brussels at the same time. In a telephone interview, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says in reaction that "no such meeting will take place in the next few days, although we would like one to take place."]

IDF, PA, Opposition Oppose 3-Day IDF Pullout

TA2711092594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Alex Fishman and Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senior elements in the defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have reservations about the proposal to evacuate the IDF from city centers in Judaea and Samaria for several days, during which elections to the Palestinian Authority [PA] will be held.

The proposal was raised again over the weekend by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin when he returned home from his trip to the United States and Spain. It has been learned that Rabin opposes the Palestinian demand for an IDF withdrawal from West Bank towns, but is aware of the difficulty in holding elections under IDF auspices. Rabin therefore supports temporarily removing army forces during the elections and returning them three or four days later.

The defense establishment and the IDF say that pulling the IDF out might create a vacuum in the area and lead to problems, "including the need to recapture the area the IDF has evacuated."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The proposal for a temporary withdrawal from the cities was raised several days ago in a defense establishment discussion, but no recommendation was made. Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, presented a redeployment plan for the IDF on the West Bank which does not contain the possibility of leaving the towns and then returning to them.

The Palestinian side also expressed opposition to the prime minister's suggestion yesterday. PA member Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the idea violates the Declaration of Principles. He said the IDF is supposed to pull out of population centers and not return after the elections. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 27 November adds: "The Likud Knesset faction today called on the prime minister not to carry out elections in the territories and not to pull out IDF forces from Palestinian urban centers for three days. Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the temporary withdrawal plan is impractical, and elections in the territories would turn Judaea and Samaria into another Gaza.

["Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir told Qol Yisra'el this morning that the IDF will redeploy its troops on the eve of the elections in the territories, according to the DOP [Declaration of Principles], but there is no point in going into detail. Savir stressed that implementing the agreement with the Palestinians despite the difficulties is an Israeli interest. Patience and work are needed to improve the economic situation in Gaza, which would reduce sympathy for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad there, Savir said."]

Rabin Denies Proposal on IDF Withdrawal

TA2711140994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denies having proposed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraw from Judaea and Samaria city centers for three days during elections and return to its positions afterward. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said he has no intention of reshuffling the cabinet. He added that whenever he has grievances against a certain minister, he summons that minister for a private meeting and does not divulge the contents to the media. The prime minister was reacting to Minister Ora Namir's anxious remarks about the prime minister having complaints against her.

Rabin Sees 'Tough Struggle' on Military Aid

TA2711152394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said during today's cabinet session that Israel could encounter difficulties in getting the $1.2 billion in civilian aid from the United States but that no problems are expected in getting the $1.8 billion in military aid. Mr. Rabin noted that although President Clinton promised that the civilian aid will continue at its previous level, the prime minister expects a tough struggle in Congress over this issue.

Rabin, Namir Have 'Sharp' Words in Cabinet Session

TA2811141994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 94 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] A sharp verbal exchange took place in a cabinet meeting yesterday between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Minister Ora Namir over the way Rabin treats his ministers. Namir spoke loudly and excitedly and, according to one version, she even burst into tears.

The discussion of the issue was initiated by Rabin. After he asked all the military men to leave the room, he reacted to a YEDI'OT AHARONOT report from 25 November that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Construction and Housing Minister Binyam Ben-Eli'ezer would be given different portfolios within the framework of a ministerial reshuffle.

Rabin said that "whatever was published over the weekend about a ministerial reshuffle is not true. It is nonsense." The prime minister asked the ministers to be careful about what they say about each other to the media.

Ben-Eli'ezer tried to comment that the source of the story was the prime minister's entourage, but Rabin replied: "I do not know who spreads these things. I have no intelligence on this, but it is unfounded." Rabin lashed out at the ministers, saying that "very often, ministers come out against the cabinet decisions. The way I see it, anyone who is unable to defend the government positions may leave. I mainly refer to social issues."

At this point, Minister Ora Namir said: "Why do you complain to us? Everyone knows it (the stories) comes from your entourage. And what are you asking of us? Are you so nice to us? Do you respect us?"

Rabin: "What do you mean?"

Namir: "You know very well what I mean. It is your prerogative to rebuke any minister you believe has not acted properly. At the same time, you should apply the same standards to yourself. Do not insult ministers in public. If you have a grievance to make, you should summon the minister and rebuke or admonish him, but not in public."

Rabin: "I saw it fit to rebuke you for what you said about the immigrants from the USSR."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Namir: "I have no problems with that. You did it gently, respectfully, and politely. Your press release was polite and respectful. Anyone can get up from this table and leak things. This is not what I charge you with."

Rabin: "Then what?"

Namir: "You should remember."

(Namir was referring to Rabin's remark during the Labor ministers meeting when he told Namir that, if she does not like the government policy, she may resign).

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Prince Hasan on Peace Process, Syria, Hamas

JN2611165194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Nov 94 pp 1, 21

["Exclusive" interview with Crown Prince Hasan by 'Ali Uhidah in Brussels; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Uhidah] Your Highness: How do you view Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the current developments?

[Hasan] I believe that the basic point is that we are truly concerned about the success of the negotiations between the [Palestinian] self-rule authority and Israel. Moreover, President Yasir 'Arafat is expected here in Brussels to once again review the host of Palestinian needs to render successful the self-rule's march. We supported this issue and explained the importance of supporting the Palestinian people during our talks with the European side.

Regarding our relations with the occupied territories, we have asserted that when the Jordanian-Israeli border is demarcated we will not harm Palestinian rights, whether through the desalination of water, which we are conducting in the Jordan River in the service of the Palestinian Arab consumer, or through our relations with the West Bank. These relations are still being positively affected by our desire to interact with the Palestinian people on the ground in all fields of empowerment, including curricula for schools and health cooperation. We recall, for example, the recent spread of cholera in the Gaza Strip.

With regard to the line drawn between us and the West Bank, it is an administrative line because, for clear political reasons in international law, we have not agreed, and will not agree, on handing over the responsibility for these territories except for a Palestinian Arab identity. Naturally, the same thing applies to the Jerusalem issue because when there is a chance in the coming phase for the self-rule talks we will not be an obstacle to handing this responsibility over to the Palestinian brothers. When we discuss the religious dimension, we should stress that in such a state—in a vacuum—we cannot hand the responsibility for the Islamic awqaf [religious trusts] over to the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs.

[Uhidah] During the meeting [in Brussels], you focused on stability as an element to fight extremism. The current situation in Iraq is a reason for instability. Did you address this issue during your talks with the European officials? What is your opinion in this regard?

[Hasan] As was mentioned in the final report of the seminar on the human dimension of peace, we insist on the issue of civil rights and human rights for the fraternal Iraqi people. We particularly focused on the detailed reports which are submitted daily by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and other international organizations. We frankly asserted to the European side that there is a pressing need for solidarity with the Iraqi people under these hard circumstances. Moreover, there is still an insistence on Iraq's implementation of the legitimate international resolutions. However, it is the Iraqi people that is actually paying the price. In fact, when we reach the phase of the Iraqi implementation of all these resolutions, I wonder whether the European side will continue to insist on the boycott [of Iraq].

[Uhidah] There is an almost declared confrontation between the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and Fatah in the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian territories. It seems that Hamas has political activities inside and outside Jordan. How does the prevailing situation in Gaza affect Jordan's relationship with the Hamas Movement?

[Hasan] Regarding the freedom of political expression in Jordan, I would like to assert that there are also extremist voices in Israel and that the [peace] treaty does not encroach on the right to political expression. However, promoting armed action and violence is rejected in part and parcel. This is clear to all organizations present on Jordanian soil.

[Uhidah] How does Jordan view the current call for revitalizing the Arab League and reconsidering its structures?

[Hasan] We view with great optimism any proposal that may build a mechanism for regional cooperation among the Arab countries due to the lack of such an effective mechanism in the current phase and also due to the spread of international regional organizations such the EEC, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and the Arab Maghreb Union. We are searching for a distinguished Jordanian relationship with the European Union. However, we ultimately wonder: Are our relations with the world drawn from outside on the bases of trade or is there any definite Arab ability and desire to build the regional will anew? Here, I would like to point out the expectations on the contrast between incomes—in the year 2010 approximately 7 million Israelis will have incomes and purchasing powers comparable to approximately 130 million Arab citizens. These astonishing figures once again show that it is futile to continue the estrangement among us.

[Uhidah] It seems that the success of the Middle East peace process, in the absence of Syria, is now in doubt. Are there any signs of flexibility in the Syrian position?

[Hasan] In fact, we welcome and await our brothers in fraternal Syria and Lebanon to join the political dialogue the way they deem satisfactory and appropriate. We only actually hope to see in the near future at least a Syrian desire to clearly address the European and other proposals as well as the zone of security and stability in the Middle East. We believe that multilateral meetings, for example, will discuss the issues of refugees, human rights, armament, and the Israeli nuclear arms. Syrian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

participation in these valuable meetings will add an important and distinguished weight to this framework.

[Uhidah] Riyadh has recently approved the accreditation of a Jordanian ambassador. What is the scope for regional cooperation between the Palestinians and Jordanians on the one hand and the GCC states on the other?

[Hasan] Naturally, diplomatic relations exist between us and all GCC states despite the circumstances and repercussions of the Gulf crisis. We will continue to make every effort to build Arab solidarity and coordination anew.

[Uhidah] Let us discuss again the fundamentalist dimension in the region and the problematic dealings with it.

[Hasan] I already said that knowing that the Europeans had to discard and resist the idea of antisemitism, they better, under these hard circumstances, resist the fear of Islam. The great media and propaganda obsession against all that is Islamic reminds us that at one time former U.S. President Ronald Reagan called the former Soviet Union an enemy. I believe that it is extremely strange and serious for responsible Western voices to talk about the need to create a dispute with Islam and the Islamic states.

As part of what is taking place in Yugoslavia today, specifically in the enclave of Bihac, we are witnessing important events. We believe that this confrontation should have been contained through a military confrontation and through returning things to normal. In fact, the Bosnian rights require pooled European efforts. We wonder: Where are the European military efforts in this regard? We have a relatively large force on the ground, in addition to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Egypt, and Turkey for example. We will actually contribute to the international efforts to regain justice. We believe that there should be pooled efforts by Europe and the United States. We also view with some concern the extent of differences at times in the way of imagining the future of this conflict.

Regarding what Europe is witnessing and its repercussions on security issues from their various aspects, including drug trafficking and the threat that the Danube River, for example, may turn into a crossing for illegal activities from the region to Europe. Here, we believe that there is a pressing need to explain these obscure aspects which create confusion between fundamentalism, illegal activities, terrorism, drug trafficking, and other issues. We also believe that each man has the right to believe in what he wishes. However, the issue of extremism should not be viewed only within an Islamic framework and apart from other frameworks.

On Relations With Israel

BR2811094994 Brussels LE SOIR in French 25 Nov 94 p 2

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Baudouin Loos; place and date not given: "The Peace Signed With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Loos] You are in Belgium to meet with the Belgian and European authorities. Are your motivations economic?

[Hasan] There could not be a better time: The peace treaty with Israel has just been signed and we must now implement it. Europe has been discreet until now—not wanting to get in the way of the United States in the peace process—as it was in Casablanca, at the conference on development in the Maghreb countries and the Near East. It is now time for it to make its position clear.

[Loos] The peace accord met with a mixed reception in your country...

[Hasan] There was a debate in Parliament, which is not just a rubber-stamping body. A majority of 55 votes out of 80 were in favor of the peace treaty. Polls have shown similar support for the concept of peace itself. But we must also understand the questions and concerns of the people, whether on the subject of Gaza, Syria's possible involvement, or the dividends of peace.

[Loos] Do you believe that the Muslim Brothers—the principal opposition group—can act against this peace that they reject?

[Hasan] All their views have been made public in the framework of the parliamentary institutions. We intend to maintain this opposition within this framework.

[Loos] Was the 1993 declaration of Israeli-Palestinian principles a necessary step before rapprochement with Israel?

[Hasan] Yes and no. The Jordanians and the Palestinians had begun negotiations in Madrid within a joint delegation. Then one day the Palestinians decided to go and negotiate in Oslo, in secret. We did not condemn the accord but we showed our support by attending the conference of donors. But the next day we signed an Israeli- Jordanian agenda which was ready.

[Loos] You didn't wait for the Syrians...

[Hasan] There can be no peace in the region without Syria and Lebanon. But it is a dynamic process and we saw the possible political opening—before the U.S. midterm elections, before the future extension of the Palestinian Authority to the West Bank, before the 1996 Israeli elections. The Syrians want to take their time, that is their choice.

[Loos] What do you say to the Palestinians who are concerned by the special role the peace treaty awards to Jordan in administering Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites?

[Hasan] Our role as Muslims or Christian Arabs in Jerusalem, as a "moral authority" in the old city, is extremely precious to us. This role has not been "confirmed" but finally "recognized" for the first time since the occupation in 1967. There will be a transfer of authority when the time comes—not under occupation. Jerusalem is not only a religious question. The cause of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Arab East Jerusalem, which is a part of the occupied territories, must be supported. This political issue will be discussed between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel in 1996. And we are not going to be an obstacle to the exercising of the political rights of Palestinians.

[Loos] The Palestinians also say they are concerned to see the "Jordanian option" back on the agenda (Jordanian political domination in a West Bank partially evacuated by the Israeli's, LE SOIR editor's note).

[Hasan] (Laughs) I would remind you that the occupier is Israel. I would be more concerned about the "Israeli option!"

[Loos] Why does the king reject the idea of a Jordano-Israeli confederation?

[Hasan] How can you speak about a future which is so far off? I repeat, most of the territories are still under occupation. We did not invent the Oslo accords. The international community rewards the architects with three Nobel peace prizes, and good luck to them! For the moment, we already have our own problems in convincing our public opinion of the temporary rights we granted in the treaty to Israeli farmers on our land.

[Loos] How are relations with Iraq?

[Hasan] It is time the international community acts faced with the despair of the Iraqi people. The U.S. representative to the UN speaks of the palaces Saddam Husayn is supposed to be building, but I do not hear him express concern for the people. The Americans do not like the regime, but there are also many others it doesn't like! We live in a strange world where solidarity is expressed with certain Kurds, the marsh Arabs of the Iraqi Shiite south, but not with others. And in economic terms, in 2010 the 7 million Israelis will have the purchasing power of 130 million Arabs...

Al-Majali Views 'Gaps Between Arab States'

JN2611194494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has affirmed that Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn, is making persistent and sincere efforts to bridge the gaps between Arab states and achieve solidarity and cooperation between the Arab and Muslim peoples.

During a meeting with the chairman and members of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee at noon today, Dr. al-Majali added that Jordan's inter-Arab ties are permeated by mutual respect and fraternity. He noted that the acceptance by the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the naming of a new Jordanian ambassador in Riyadh has positive implications. He added that the ties with the fraternal State of Qatar are special and positive. He went on to say that during his recent visit to the State of Qatar, Jordan explained the basic issues pertaining to Jordan as well as those connected with the Palestine question and overall Arab issues. He said that the issue of allowing Jordanian workers to work there, and finding jobs for a certain category of specialties was also discussed during the visit.

The prime minister pointed out that Jordan's ties with the fraternal State of Kuwait hold out good promise. He said that the Jordanian position toward Kuwait, as well as Jordan's definite eagerness to see Kuwait's territorial integrity and independence safeguarded, have been explained. He said that Jordan is sincerely interested in neutralizing the effects of the Gulf crisis—something which is bound to positively influence the ties between the two fraternal states. He indicated that he will pay a visit to the United Arab Emirates soon.

The prime minister noted that Jordan's relations with the Sultanate of Oman are special and fraternal, and that Jordanian-Bahraini ties are also special. He hoped that Jordan will manage to rehabilitate its ties with all brothers.

With regard to Jordan's ties with Egypt, the prime minister expected that the Higher Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee will be called into session during the second week of December to be cochaired by the prime ministers of both Jordan and Egypt. He added that Jordan is interested in cementing its ties with Egypt.

The prime minister described as good Jordan's ties with Syria. He added that Jordan is doing its best to promote and enhance these ties. Jordan hopes and wishes that Syria will manage to restore its sovereignty over all Syrian territory, he said. We harbor the same sentiments toward fraternal Lebanon, for which we nurse a special amity, al-Majali noted.

As regards Jordan's relationship with fraternal Iraq, the prime minister said that it is special. He added: We are doing our utmost to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people and mitigate the tragic conditions being experienced by Iraqis. He hope that Iraq will manage to rejoin the international community of nations and see the embargo lifted once it complies with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Regarding the Jerusalem issue, the prime minister asserted that Jordan does not have any ambitions in Jerusalem. It only seeks to perform the religious duty dictated by our faith, history, and code of ethics toward Islamic holy shrines there. He underscored the clarity of the Jordanian position in this regard, as explained by His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. This position stipulates that Jordan will transfer the supervision over Jerusalem's holy shrines to the Palestinian brothers without a single minute's delay once they can take over such a responsibility. txt
Regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, Dr. al-Majali said: There is no direct contact, although we have welcomed all the Palestinian delegations. They promised to return to Amman two weeks ago, but it

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

seems that they are preoccupied with their domestic affairs, pointing out that Jordan's attempts are serious and sincere to extend all the aid it can, which we hope will not be misinterpreted. We will continue to our best to alleviate the suffering of our people, whether regarding services on the bridges or any other services.

The prime minister said: Under no circumstance, will Jordan allow the existing differences in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to move to Jordan. We will not support one party at the expense of the other. The relationship with the National Authority and the Palestinian people can be without limits if they so desire. This is despite the fact that we have not heard anything from them which is in harmony with our real intentions toward them. The issue is left to them.

He said: Our unionist or future relationship is an issue which is left until the Palestinian people will be able to determine their future.

On the situation in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. al-Majali said: Jordan has increased its contacts with all world states in order to lift the embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to stop the massacre against the Muslim people there. He added: We are doing our utmost to help the Bosnians overcome their ordeal.

The prime minister said: Our relations with the European states are excellent. We hope we will enter into an economic partnership with Europe, which would contribute to developing the region and upgrading the living standards of its peoples through aid and development programs.

He stressed: Our relationship with the United States is excellent. We should wait for some time so that the U.S. Administration can arrange its affairs in light of the results of the recent elections. This necessitates waiting for a few months before we know the nature of the U.S. aid which might be extended to Jordan.

Concerning contacts with Japan, the prime minister said: There are continuous contacts. Our friendship is traditional. We hope that through the economic conference scheduled to be held in Amman in the spring of next year, we will be able to reach joint views and concepts on development with our partners in peace.

The prime minister said: Our relations with north Africa are good. The ministerial committee between Jordan and Tunisia will be upgraded to the level of prime ministers in the two fraternal countries in compliance with the wish of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

At the outset of the meeting, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, chairman of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, said: Jordan's foreign policy has given priority to the Arab-Israeli conflict because it needs to deal with the urgent facts on the ground, and to reach a policy which secures our interests and safeguards our security.

He added: The Jordanian policy has always viewed Arab relations as the policy of the one united family which tolerates no waiting; something which necessitates restoring cohesion to them.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Arafat Supporters, Opponents Clash in Refugee Camp

Opponents Recapture 6 Positions

NC2511183094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to the latest security reports from Sidon, this afternoon the opponents of 'Arafat recaptured six positions which they lost in the morning in clashes with the supporters of 'Arafat. Intermittent clashes are still taking place at the northern entrance of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, where the supporters of 'Arafat have retreated to two positions which belong to them. [passage omitted]

Over 10 Dead, 25 Wounded

NC2611065194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fierce clashes erupted in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp between Fatah loyalists and dissidents yesterday. During the fighting, which lasted until the evening hours, the dissidents recaptured positions which Fatah had originally seized.

According to a preliminary casualty count, more than 10 people were killed and 25 others were wounded by the clashes which also caused huge property losses.

The fighting was the worst seen among Palestinian factions in Lebanon since the PLO signed an autonomy agreement with Israel in September 1993.

The camp's streets turned into a war zone for several hours, creating panic among the camp's residents and the population of the nearby town of Sidon, many of whom rushed to bomb shelters, fearing that a new Israeli invasion had begun. Even after this was proved to be false, conditions did not return to normal. Sidon schools, particularly those close to the camp, sent their students back to their homes in a state of panic. There was very little traffic in the streets.

In the evening yesterday, sniper fire could still be heard on the periphery of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and skirmishes continued inside the camp.

The clashes began at dawn yesterday when about 200 Fatah fighters attacked the dissidents' positions. This quickly turned into street skirmishes and house-to-house fighting. Although Fatah initially seized four dissident offices and one checkpoint, the dissidents soon recaptured them under the command of former Fatah commander Lieutenant Colonel Munir al-Maqdah and his second-in-command Major Khalid al-Shayib.

The dissidents launched their counteroffensive against Fatah units after Friday prayers yesterday. According to some sources, dozens of armed men joined the dissidents and Fatah brought in reinforcements from al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre. The sources added that Fatah arrested four fighters who had been serving under al-Maqdah's command.

As the tense situation continued, certain organizations and political forces in the camp today to protest both the infighting and Yasir 'Arafat's policies.

Al-Hirawi: Army Will Halt Clashes

NC2611131094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has declared that the Lebanese authorities have warned conflicting Palestinian factions in the Palestinian camps that they will issue orders to the Lebanese Army to halt the fighting if it happens again.

Al-Hirawi made these remarks during a meeting he held with the Committee for the Defense of Beirut Residents' Rights. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Said Ready To Exchange Prisoners With Israel

Shaykh Sha'ban Criticizes Israel

LD2511172694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese revolutionary Hizballah movement has once again declared its readiness to exchange the Zionist regime's prisoners with the Lebanese prisoners and captives held by the Zionist regime.

Announcing the news, a spokesman for the secretary general of the Lebanese revolutionary Hizballah movement accused the Zionist enemy of obstructing the release of more than 300 Lebanese prisoners in occupied Palestine.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Lebanese Harakat al-Tawhid al-Islami [Islamic Unification Movement], accused arrogant countries of committing any act when it comes to safeguarding their own interests even if it results in the total annihilation of a nation.

Speaking at Friday prayers in the Amin Mosque in Tripoli today, he accused regime by casting aside the struggle against Zionism.

Nasrallah: Group Not Holding Ron Arad

NC2511192094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Nov 94

[Report by radio correspondent Muhammad Bishkar in Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon's Hizballah has reaffirmed its readiness to swap the Zionist prisoners it is holding for the Lebanese detainees and prisoners in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

prisons of the Zionist occupation forces. This was announced in a speech by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, which was delivered on his behalf during a ceremony held at the Lebanese Press Association yesterday on the fifth anniversary of the detainees' uprising in the Zionist al-Khiyam prison in southern Lebanon. Two of the detainees were killed by the enemy's soldiers during the uprising.

In his speech, Nasrallah stressed that Zionist pilot Ron Arad, who was captured after his military aircraft was shot down in southern Lebanon eight years ago, is not in the hands of the Hizballah, as the Zionist authorities claim. He added that, if the Hizballah were responsible for the fate of the Zionist pilot, it would not hesitate to hand him over in exchange for freedom for all the Lebanese detainees in the occupation forces' prisons. He accused the Zionist enemy of foiling all previous attempts to exchange its prisoners for the Lebanese detainees, who number over 300.

On another level, Iranian Ambassador Homayun 'Alizadeh has denied a report that the four Iranian diplomats who were kidnaped by the Lebanese Forces militia during the 1982 Zionist invasion of Lebanon have been killed. After a meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, he said his information indicates that the four diplomats are still alive.

The Iranian Embassy in Beirut issued a statement yesterday denying a report in the Iranian newspaper KEYHAN to this effect. The embassy said that this report only expresses the viewpoint of the newspaper and reflects a lesser is stressing that the diplomats are still alive.

Clerics Denounce 'Arafat, Gaza 'Massacre'

NC2611112294 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translation Excerpt] Reactions and denunciation continue about the Gaza massacre perpetrated by 'Arafat's Authority against the Palestinian people. Calls have been made to avoid involvement in 'Arafat's conspiracy.

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that 'Arafat wished to submit a good-conduct certificate to the United States and Israel, illustrated by the action of his police in perpetrating the Filastin Mosque massacre.

Fadlallah called for avoiding civil war and involvement in 'Arafat's suspect schemes, pointing out that Israel uses its influence in the United States to exert pressure on the Arabs and obtain through peace what it could not obtain by war. He urged restoration of inter-Arab solidarity.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, denounced the massacre perpetrated by 'Arafat's police against the worshipers. He praised the members of the intifadah and those who reject the Zionist scheme which seeks to turn the Arabs into political and economic slaves.

His eminence also extolled the resistance movement in the south and saluted it and the Palestinian intifadah. He warned against involvement in an inter-Palestinian war.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli [former Hizballah leader] denounced the massacre and 'Arafat's attempt to lay the blame on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and Iran.

Al-Tufayli remarked: We do not expect 'Arafat to confess his crime nor do we need further evidence to indict him. During his meeting with Clinton and Mubarak he pledged to eliminate the mujahidin.

He described the action perpetrated by the head of the self-rule authority as the beginning of the scheme to destroy the Islamic presence. He urged that infighting be avoided and that 'Arafat be politically exposed. Al-Tufayli called for more endurance.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, condemned the massacre carried out by 'Arafat and his Authority. He said those who once raised the slogan of War until victory have now backed down, have become collaborators with yesterday's enemies, and are fighting their own kinsfolk.

Sha'ban added that experience shows that in the sphere of international schemes, there is no room for any justice or right and personal interests are placed above all values and norms, even if this causes the extermination of whole nations.

Sha'ban declared that speaking of a just peace with the usurping Zionist entity is the biggest lie in the world as long as the reins of international, regional, and local affairs remain in the hands of people who know no trust or their own hands, the rights will never be restored. [passage omitted]

Authorities Arrest Deputy Shamas, Supporters

NC2511174594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After an interrogation session in Zahlah which lasted several hours, Chief Investigating Judge 'Asim Safiy-al-Din issued an arrest warrant for Deputy Yahya Shamas. A judicial source said Deputy Shamas has been moved to the Internal Security Forces' prison in al-Ashrafiyah in Beirut at his request. Several supporters of Shamas who are on the wanted list have also been arrested.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Argentine Official Denies Lebanese Involved in Bombing

NC2611063694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTERS has carried a report from Buenos Aires citing a remark made two days ago by Argentine President Carlos Menem that Rodrigo Toranzo, the official in charge of the Argentine intelligence apparatus' foreign operations section, recently visited Lebanon on a mission designed to promote a Lebanese-Argentine agreement on security cooperation.

During his meetings with some Lebanese officials, Toranzo affirmed that no Lebanese are involved in last July's bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Radio: 'Blackmail' Cannot Change Government Stand

JN2511163094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1233 GMT 25 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Once again, Israel is trying to shuffle the deck in the peace process, despite major efforts to push the process forward and clarify its bases and define its requirements.

Yitzhaq Rabin, head of the Israeli government, is back to playing the tune of good gestures and initiatives designed to convince Israeli public opinion of the importance of peace. He is also demanding that Syria take similar initiatives. These, of course, include upgrading the level of negotiations and reassuring the Israeli voter of the future of normalization, not to mention marginal issues that at this stage have nothing to do with the essence of a just and comprehensive peace based on a full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories.

It is no secret to observers that Israel has been devoted to this since the beginning of the peace process. Israel has been trying to put the cart before the horse and to leapfrog to the results of peace before it is achieved. This is in addition to its attempt to tailor the rhythm of the negotiations according to Rabin's political and electoral calendar, so much so that Israeli officials seem to think the peace process was launched just to achieve Israel's and their own electoral interests.

Since the Madrid conference, we have not heard any Israeli official talk about full withdrawal. At the same time, these officials are taking advantage of every occasion to demand normalization, the opening of borders, and the establishment of economic and cultural relations. They went to the point of drawing a picture of the future of the Arab region under Israeli hegemony—camouflaged by what is termed the new Middle East that is preoccupying the Zionist mind and much of Israel's current efforts.

All this represents a disregard of the facts and bases of peace. Separate and unequal agreements concluded with the self-rule authority and Jordan embody this fact—agreements through which Israel can be seen avoiding international resolutions and through which the peace process is being turned into an auction. In such an auction, territories are sold and leased, rights and holy places are subject to bargaining, the facts of history and geography are neglected, and international legitimacy resolutions and the will of the international community are not considered. All this, as well as developments and events in the region and inside the occupied Arab territories, confirm that Israel does not want a just and comprehensive peace because it is clinging to its occupation of the Arab territories.

Yitzhaq Rabin did not conceal this fact when he said: I am not sure Israel will be able to pay the required price. This is as if he is talking about Israeli territory that he will relinquish or donate to Syria or to Lebanon, and as if he thinks Arabs can pay for peace with their territories or part of their territories, which, here, means their capitulation. He says this, as if he is under the illusion that a limited group of settlers—brought in from all over the world and planted in the Golan according to official occupation plans—could cling to a land that does not concern them any more than the owners of the land and of the right. It is also as if, in the end, Rabin wants to convince the world, just like Israel wants to do on the remaining tracks, that peace serves the interest of Arabs alone, and, therefore, Israel is giving them this peace in return for signing agreements that do nothing other than consecrate the occupation and impose hegemony.

Rabin, who came to power on the wings of propaganda that beat a great deal for his illusionary peace stands, is finally showing that his stands are completely identical with Likkud's positions, represented by Shamir's statement: Peace for peace.

Rabin is wrong if he thinks blackmail can succeed in the efforts to change Syria's constant stands, which adhere to a just and comprehensive peace based on full withdrawal.

Have no illusions, what Rabin is talking about in terms of an exceptional initiative cannot be, unless he announces his commitment to a full withdrawal. Anything other than this is an illusion and a waste of time and effort, and a waste of the peace opportunity.

Papers Say Israel Maneuvering 'To Avoid Peace'

NC2611165194 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Nov 26 (AFP)—Syria on Saturday blasted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his foreign minister Shim'on Peres for "manoeuvring" to avoid peace.

"Rabin's statements that the peace demanded by Syria has a high price that Israel cannot pay are senseless," said the official daily AL-THAWRAH.

"Israel is used to imposing its conditions and receiving concessions, but this time it must pay the price of a fair and real peace" with Syria, the newspaper added.

Rabin said Tuesday [22 November] during a visit to the United States that Syria wanted peace, "but I am not sure it's the peace we want and that Israel can pay the price being asked."

Syria insists on a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized in 1967, in return for peace. Israel has so far publicly offered only a phased withdrawal without specifying its scope.

AL-THAWRAH added that Peres was "trapped between different political parties and making contradictory statements."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peres on Wednesday denied he had sent a message to Syria through Argentine President Carlos Menem that Israel was prepared to withdraw fully from the Golan, as Menem had claimed.

"That is not my position so I could not have sent such a message," the foreign minister said. Menem later blamed the mix-up on a mistranslation.

AL-THAWRAH said "the statements by Rabin and Peres betray Israel's position, which is opposed to peace."

It said an upcoming shuttle mission by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was "extremely important" and would allow Washington to understand Syria's true position.

The government daily TISHRIN said Rabin and Peres had "reinforced doubts about Israel's refusal to return occupied land."

Israel's declared desire for peace was merely a "manoeuvre" to secure an accord with the PLO, which led to the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, the newspaper said.

Paper: 'Separate Deals' Not Part of Full Peace

JN2811081194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH comments on the deception campaigns launched by Israeli officials against Syria and its firm and principled policy toward the peace process.

The newspaper emphasizes that Syria, which went willingly to the Madrid conference out of its belief in a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement, did everything possible to maintain coordination and consultation among the Arab parties to the peace process because it believed and still believes that had coordination continued the way it should, the Arab parties would have realized the objectives for which they have offered many sacrifices.

The newspaper says: What occurred on the Palestinian and Jordanian sides did not achieve the minimum expected result for either party. Moreover, the policy of separate deals created new conditions whose results would be very difficult to predict. What happened in Gaza and elsewhere proves that the agreements made between some Arab parties and Israel have nothing to do with a just and comprehensive peace because such agreements are not based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, which form the basis of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria has emphasized that peace is its strategic option. It will continue to work with all parties concerned to render the peace process successful in order to realize the noble objective of a just and comprehensive peace based on the international legitimacy resolutions, which guarantee the Arabs the restoration of their full rights and preserve their dignity.

Minister Urges Removal of Israel's Nuclear Arms

NC2711070294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stressed that his country supports President Husni Mubarak's call to free the region from nuclear weapons. He said Syria has, in fact, made this demand because no lasting and stable peace can be achieved under the threat from the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

In a statement published in AL-AKHBAR newspaper today, he said the world community should adopt the Egyptian initiative to rid the region of weapons of mass destruction.

On the negotiations with Israel, especially after U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Syria, Salman said his country's position is firm in calling for a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan height and southern Lebanon. He noted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's assertion that Damascus is ready to meet the requirements of peace.

The Syrian information minister warned against Israel's attempts to undermine Arab League institutions and reduce Egypt's central role in the region. He said the Arabs should establish an Arab market before thinking of establishing any other blocs, such as the Middle East market.

Radio Reports Establishment of Jordan-Israel Ties

JN2711120494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Governments of Jordan and Israel have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today. A joint Jordanian-Israeli statement issued in Amman today said diplomatic relations are established between the two sides in compliance with Article 5 of their peace treaty. The statement expressed a common desire to build and promote relations of friendship and cooperation between the two sides.

While Amman has appointed Marwan al-Mu'ashshir as its ambassador in Tel Aviv, Israel has not yet announced the name of the ambassador who will represent it in Amman. A delegation from the Israeli Foreign Ministry will arrive in Amman on Thursday to select the site of the new Israeli embassy, which will be officially inaugurated in the Jordanian capital on 10 December.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

'Warring' Sides To Attend Tehran Peace Conference

LD2711112294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul has announced: The warring sides in Afghanistan declared their willingness to take part in the Tehran peace conference last night. Let me draw your attention to our colleague's report:

[Unidentified correspondent] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul announced this information today and added: Following persistent mediation efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent months, last night, the Afghan parties, finally, named their representatives to the Tehran conference and representatives from the warring sides and from neutral Afghan groups are due to leave for Tehran today.

Mr. Haddadi said that the Tehran peace conference is to be held at the suggestion of Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister—made at the recent meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization in Islamabad—and with the support of that organization, adding: Over 20 fully empowered representatives of the leaders of Afghan groups, including representatives of the Afghan president and prime minister and neutral Afghan groups, as well as the Islamic Conference Organization and several countries, will take part in the Tehran peace conference.

The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul noted that the aim of the Tehran peace conference is to bring the viewpoints of the warring sides in Afghanistan closer together and to pave the way for establishing peace and understanding between them. Fighting between the warring sides in Afghanistan began on 1 January 1994 and tens of thousands of people have been killed or injured since then as a result.

Sayyaf Group Commander Killed in 'Conspiracy'

LD2611182894 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a conspiracy hatched by the notorious Shura-e Nezar and KHAD intelligence organization, a commander of the Sayyaf group was killed and robbed.

Citing a source close to the coalition administration, the city correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom reports that Masud and his communist collaborators last week killed commander Nur Gol—nicknamed the "Doctor", in the Khairkhana area following their plan of assassination and murder of commanders and high-ranking individuals of Sayyaf's group.

The report adds: The conspiracy was designed in such a way that the KHAD personnel tempted this commander to buy a Stinger missile. When commander Nur Gol, carrying a large amount of cash, was making the journey to the place of appointment, he was attacked and killed by the men of Shura-e Nezar and KHAD. The cash in the possession of the commander was removed.

Since a clash which had taken place between the men of Shura-e Nezar and the men of Sayyaf's group, the leader of the notorious Shura-e Nezar has embarked on a series of actions and has decided to weaken the Sayyaf group. So far 12 commanders and high-ranking individuals of the Ettehad party, including commander Amir, have been eliminated by various conspiracies.

The report adds that Akbari, a famous member of the Nezar Shura, some time ago told Anwari at a private meeting that Sayyaf and his group have now been completely weakened and they cannot do anything.

Iran

Relations with Kuwait To Be Enhanced

LD2711180994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 27 Nov KUNA)—The Kuwaiti ambassador to Iran, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Duwaikh, said here today that the two countries have decided to push forward their relations in all fields.

In a statement to KUNA after his meeting with Hoseyn Sadeqi, director of the Arabian Gulf Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, ambassador Duwaykh added that they reviewed bilateral relations and the means to improve them.

Duwaikh pointed out that during the meeting they agreed to make the necessary arrangements for implementing the agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two countries.

He said that they also agreed to arrange for the exchange of visits between the officials of the two countries as one of the measures aimed at developing bilateral relations in all fields.

The two sides expressed their wish to hold a meeting of the joint committee, whose establishment was agreed during Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Kuwait in May 1993, to discuss the means to activate the joint committee's work.

It is noteworthy that Sadeqi was Iranian ambassador to Kuwait for approximately four years before his appointment last month as a director of the Arabian Gulf Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

RESALAT Rebuts SALAM on U.S. Ties

NC2611133794 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Nov 94 p 2

[Political commentary: "The Stance of Which Group Is Not Known?"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] In its "Hello SALAM" column (footnote: 16 November 94) SALAM newspaper carried the following: "[Reader] You think you are following the line of the struggle against the United States. We believe that those are only nebulous words to print in the newspapers.

[SALAM] We do not know what the intention of our esteemed reader is, or what group he is addressing; whether it is directed at the government or the entire system. If it is the entire system, then ostensibly there are no doubts as regards its stance toward the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran's intransigence toward that regime, which aggresses against the rights of nations.

Of course, the perceptible increase in economic relations with the United States has prompted these questions and doubts to which the government should provide a convincing response to the public. Perhaps the doubts and questions have been generated by individuals who believe in direct talks and the establishment of relations with the United States. They are the ones who consider this a panacea to all the problems of Iran and the Islamic world.

There are others who profess serious struggle against the tyrannical U.S. Administration, and among them there are some who enjoy a high level of credibility and therefore this has inspired much ambivalence among our readers. This is because if the slogans of one group (the majority) are serious regarding a struggle against the United States, then where do these analyses, utterances, and voluminous economic relations originate? To what group do they belong? The majority? Or is there another faction or third group that is in the process of metamorphosis, cohesion, and organization? When we do not have any specific official political parties, such ambiguities and ambivalence will continue."

On the pretext of propounding an ambiguous question, what is the meaning of the innuendo against "the entire system?"

It would have been preferable if SALAM newspaper had used the word "you" in the question and then given the required response.

As the mouthpiece of the Tehran Militant Clerics Society, SALAM should tell why it is that for quite a while this Society has not even issued a hollow statement against the United States so that it may be proved that at least it has thought about it! Similarly it should have conceded that the doubts about the intransigent nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system in general toward the United States arose from the remarks of one of the members of the SALAM editorial board in his address at the congress of the alleged combating of the powers of world arrogance. [footnote: Report of the congress deliberations and address by 'Abbas 'Abdi in SALAM 1 November 94] In it he said: "What could be a solution to the problems is boosting indigenous production in the various fields so that the United States would officially recognize our existence due to this power and it is after this stage that one should raise the issue of talks and relations!"

Mention of talks with the United States in the context of a solution to problems can be perceived in such remarks.

In answer to an ambiguous and nebulous question, the SALAM newspaper has, by using the word "ostensibly," put a question mark on the intransigent stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the aggressor U.S. regime!

Are the categorical and clear stances of the great leader at various junctures not adequate for conveying the official posture of the entire system? Are the stances of the president, speaker of the Majles, head of the judiciary against the United States not proclaimed in the mass media and in the various speeches and official interviews? Are the grand march of 4 November, which was far more forceful and intense than in previous years in Tehran and the provinces, and the vigorous stance of the speaker of the Majles, not evidence of the intransigence of our system toward the United States?

This year the Tehran Militant Clergy Association issued a harshly-worded statement against the United States on the eve of 4 November and so did the Islamic Association of Engineers, the Islamic Coalition Society, the Zeynab society, the Islamic Students' Association and dozens of other political groups issued statements endorsing the irreconcilable stance of the system. Are these not specific official and political groups?

One should see the stance of which group remains unknown?! [punctuation as published].

Can the Tehran Militant Clerics say that since they do not have any political activity they will refrain from even adopting a lackluster stance against the United States on the 4 November anniversary!

Can SALAM use this as a pretext for having such a tepid stance against the United States and the height of its injustice is that it should accuse others?

In its response, SALAM alluded to "economic relations" with the United States. It is common knowledge that there has been a volume of economic relations with the United States ever since the severance of political relations. Even during the war, and even at the most sensitive junctures, these relations were not severed and in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] and 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] these were objected to by feeling individuals [footnote: Morteza Nabavi Editorial in RESALAT 8 June on "Trade Relations With the United States"]

This does not, however, mean that the struggle against the United States has been halted and is merely a figment of the imagination.

When the volume of the imports of Iran and the United States in 1360 [year beginning 21 March 1981], 1362,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and 1363 was considerable, was the struggle against the United States in those years also chimerical?

Does the quantity of Iran's exports to the United States in 1364 [year beginning 21 March 1985] 1365, and 1366 which was far greater than in the years 1370, 1371, and 1372 mean that in the revered lifetime of the late imam, the struggle against the United States was less than it is now?!

What kind of rhetoric is this that the struggle against the United States should be linked to fluctuations in Iran's economic relations and that you should ignore the important and overt stances on international and regional issues on the part of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system?

Now who is the one who is in favor of talks with the United States except the one cited in the beginning of the article from SALAM!

If you were referring to ['Ayatollah] Mohajerani, at least he had the justice to retract his words after the clarification of the stance of the great leader. In addition, he is not a member of any well-known group, faction or trend in the country. (Perhaps you are the only one who knows of a third group!) As far as is known he is not a member of any particular group.

How can remarks by individuals regarding relations with the United States—who are about as many as the fingers on one of your hands—generate doubts, especially when these individuals have been the targets of so much fury and indignation? However, there has been so much official emphasis on the categorical and overt stances regarding relations with the United States—could these not serve to affirm this stance clearly for SALAM and for the one who raised this question or doubts, to put it more clearly?

Paper Cites U.S. Democrats' 'Blunders'

NC2711134294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Nov 94 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Washington—Repetition of Its Past Mistakes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

For almost two years now, the Democrats have held the reins of the U.S. Government. Facts and figures prove that Clinton and his party do not have any chance of succeeding in the next presidential election. Even today, the U.S. press is carrying murmurings of resignations and an early relinquishing of power.

This phenomenon was not anticipated by the Democrats, and their hasty reaction indicates that they were taken unawares. Naturally, whatever they say will be a defensive reaction from a defensive stance.

Despite the change in the ruling party, the true nature of U.S. hegemony has not undergone any dazzling change. However, the Democrats constantly prove that, as far as political stances are concerned, they make far more blunders than the Republicans. This is because they lack the necessary know-how. What they do know is limited, superfluous, and rather unreliable. It is for this reason that they encounter failure and defeat in everything they undertake.

This point becomes relatively more sensitive when the discussion turns to Iran and the Islamic Revolution, as then the tenuous knowledge of the Democrats becomes even more evident. It can be summed up in one sentence—the United States still does not understand the nature of, or the correct manner of approaching, the Islamic Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Democrats have displayed far greater ineptitude and impotence in their prognosis and decisionmaking than others.

Once before, the Democrats were assailed by similar confusion and ignorance in the early years of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and were not able to make the correct and appropriate decisions. Consequently, they suffered an amazing amount of humiliation. Today, the remarks by some of the Washington echelons and the U.S. press affiliated with the Democrats revives the same specter of confusion and ignorance.

Perhaps one of the reasons for a recurrence of this phenomenon is that the same faces who were present in the past and did not perform efficiently or competently then have been recruited again. Warren Christopher, the unsuccessful secretary of state for the Clinton administration, is one such example. During Carter's term he was Assistant Secretary of State, and even then he did not display any efficiency or prowess to speak of.

The malevolence and blind hatred toward Iran, the Islamic Revolution, and Islam and the blind emulation of Zionist stances and perspectives are among Christopher's distinctive traits. He has been reprimanded repeatedly for his vindictive utterances in this regard. The recent defeat of the Democrats has fanned this blind rage and pent-up malice in Christopher. He has attributed all the failures of U.S. Middle Eastern policy to the Islamic Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and, with amazing indignation and spite, he has made some sickly remarks in this regard.

Recently, in an interview, Christopher spoke in his typical ailing manner calling for a change in the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and the coming into power of a government favored by the United States and which would not be antithetical to Washington's policies. With immense anger that the Islamic Republic of Iran's system has come to stay, Christopher described Iran's policy of supporting the Palestinian people as "the policy of fear and intimidation." He said very emotionally that Iran continues its policy of opposition to the peace process and apparently does not wish to change that policy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Christopher has displayed far more rancor and antagonism than a veteran diplomat would care to show and has stressed that Iran is carrying on adventurism beyond its borders and that the United States would welcome a change of the regime in Iran.

This is not the first time that a U.S. official has aired such grievances about the Iranian nation and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Earlier, the former U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger also said that the roots of the Iranian nation should be scorched, and he then embarked on some insane actions in this regard. However, a while later he resigned in disgrace. Now, Christopher is showing signs of the same psychotic mental imbalance, and he continues to repeat again and again ridiculous statements that the people have already heard.

Perhaps, at one time, our people were sensitive to such feuding remarks and would rise up in fury and indignation in protest. However, today, with the consolidation of the Revolution and the ensured perpetuation of the rule of Islam in this homeland, they take such ludicrous outbursts in their stride with amusement and view with sheer contempt the myopic person who makes such utterances.

Despite all this, Christopher appears to be a helpless and pitiful individual who bitterly realizes that all that he had gained in his political vagrancy in the region has gone by the wayside. Even in the United States, American voters do not put a premium on the efforts of Christopher and his associates, which at the least could have ensured the continued rule of the Democrats. The demeaning defeat of the Democrats in the recent U.S. elections is perhaps the main reason for the gibberish spewed by Christopher. Thus, it is necessary that Christopher and his cohorts should prepare themselves further to accept the bitter taste of defeat.

Foreign Media's Propaganda Denounced

NC2611141894 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Nov 94 p 2

[KEYHAN "Special Report": "A Deceitful Justification"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few days, the speech by Dr. Ebrahim Yazdi on 14 November in Washington has become a pretext for propaganda invectives against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the foreign mass media.

Dr. Yazdi, who was invited by an American organization named "The Council for Policymaking in the Middle East," had traveled to the United States and addressed the Council on "The Characteristics of the Islamic Movement and the Challenge Faced by Muslim Activists in the Circumstances of Today's World." He also answered questions on conclusion of his address.

In the course of his speech, Dr. Yazdi referred to Israel as "a reality" and claimed that "many Muslims have accepted Israel as a reality!" When he attempted to try to justify this contradiction, Dr. Yazdi was asked: Why is it that despite the West's toppling of the government of Dr., Mosaddeq, the Nehzat-e Azadi [Opposition's Freedom Movement of which Yazdi is a member] has Western leanings, Dr. Yazdi said: "If we wish to progress, we should look to the future."

Among the foreign radios, Radio Israel and Radio Baghdad gave more extensive coverage to the remarks by Dr. Yazdi than the others and lauded them profusely.

It must be clarified that the United States and the occupationist Jerusalem regime have constantly resorted to this deceitful justification of depicting it as natural that Muslim countries should accept Israel and that "Israel is a reality!!" in order to nudge the compromise accord ahead.

By attempting to substantiate such an illogical and vague justification, they conclude that those who negate the existence of Israel or rise up against the usurpist regime are not "realistic!"

It is worth stating that in the course of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, the Nehzat-e Azadi had made overt and extensive efforts to undermine the morale of the combatants and had sought to project the claims by Iraq and the Western countries supporting Iraq as logical and the defense by the Islamic combatants as futile and useless.

At that time as well, foreign radios, Radio Baghdad and Radio Israel in particular, had assumed the responsibility for the dissemination of communiques and statements by the Nehzat-e Azadi and the Jebheh-ye Melli [the dissident National Front]. It would be worthwhile to recall that a group of the Nehzat-e Azadi members had later been arrested on charges of playing a fifth column role for Iraq and had admitted to these charges. After pleading for clemency and repenting they had been granted amnesty and released from prison.

Yazdi Urges a 'Wipe Out' of Western Influence

LD2511141094 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamedan, Nov. 25, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Mohammad Yazdi called on the authorities to strive to wipe out signs of western culture from the Iranian society.

Addressing a gathering of bereaved families of the martyrs here Thursday [24 November], Ayatollah Yazdi said that the enemies were now attempting to influence the young people in Iran in order to change their thoughts to their own benefits through various means, cultural in particular.

He noted that the key to the success of the Islamic system rested in [word indistinct] the leadership.

EU Lifting of Syrian Arms Embargo Viewed

LD2611155794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Common Market lifted its arms embargo against Syria. The embargo has been in place against Syria for more than a decade on the pretext of that country's support for terrorism. With the lifting of the sanction, Western countries have taken another step toward normalizing their relations with Syria.

In 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] after Syria's military participation in the oil war alongside the allies, Western countries lifted political and diplomatic sanctions against that country. As a result of this, meetings between high-ranking Western officials and their Syrian counterparts began. Of those meetings the recent visit to Syria by U.S. President Bill Clinton can be mentioned.

Political experts believe that the recent EU [European Union] measure is more for political objectives and benefits than military ones. That is because following this action by the West, Syria cannot be expected to indulge in extensive arms purchases from Western countries. Syrian armed forces are mainly equipped with Russian-made arms and bearing in mind the Syrian economic and political conditions, it seems unlikely that that country intends to change its arms system; something that naturally entails vast expense.

Taking into account those facts, this question is posed: What is the West's objective in giving such a political concession to Syria? As we know, in the so-called Middle East peace process so far three Arab sides have compromised with the Zionist regime, and Syria and Lebanon are the only remaining ones that have failed to reach such agreement. The Western action in giving any concession to Syria under these circumstances can be interpreted only as a means for encouraging Damascus to compromise with Tel Aviv. Of course, in this action by the EU, the European efforts for finding a relatively independent position from America in the Middle East must not be overlooked. In the Middle East peace process America and the Zionist regime have always ignored the European role in that region. Nevertheless, European countries have managed to a certain extent to find a niche for themselves in the process by making use of their effective levers, especially financial aid. In this effort, Europe is trying not to support the Zionist regime unconditionally like America. Instead, by supporting the wishes of some Arab governments, Europe is trying to attract them to itself to a certain extent.

TEHRAN TIMES Condemns UNSC Inaction on Bosnia

LD2711091494 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—A [passage indistinct] orthodox Serbs should know that by following a policy of hatred towards other religions, they will bring the wrath of future generations of their victims upon their own progeny.

"The U.N. peace-keeping forces have confirmed the reports that the Serbian forces resumed their fighting in the afternoon on Friday after they agreed to a ceasefire on Friday morning", said 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial.

Despite this blatant violation by the Serbs, Western governments, especially those who are members of the Security Council [UNSC], are coolly watching the carnage, it said adding that, the reaction by the Islamic countries too is less than responsible. The silence and apathy of the Security Council in the face of such clear violations of international law has to be condemned in no uncertain terms, underlined the daily.

The editorial concluded by saying that the Security Council has only proved that it is afraid to come to the defense of the followers of Islam, while the present situation will only lead to the entrenchment of inter-religious hatred.

Spokesman Urges Immediate Cease-Fire in Bihac

LD2611213494 Tehran IRNA in English 2101 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Mahmoud Mohammadi said here today that the United Nations and European powers should see to the practical implementation of the resolution which declared the besieged Bosnian region of Bihac as a safe haven.

In an interview with IRNA, Mohammadi said "what the hard pressed Bosnian Muslims need in these winter conditions is an immediate ceasefire to halt the advance of the Serb aggressors and not the unaffective publicity maneuvers of NATO."

He said the fall of Bihac and the other safe areas declared by the United Nations would mean the fall of the creditibility of the world body and the weakening of the human values of a Europe which styles itself as the cradle of humanitarianism.

Mohammadi said the Islamic Republic of Iran appeals to the Islamic and Non-Aligned States to take any possible means to save the oppressed people of Bihac.

Asked about the forthcoming meeting of Afghan mujahedeen in Tehran, he said ways of ending the clashes in afghanistan and starting reconstruction and national solidarity top the agenda of the meeting.

Under the circumstances when all avenues for direct talks were closed and the efforts made by the U.N. and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) seemed fruitless, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to the ministerial meeting of the special committee on Afghanistan in Islamabad the holding of indirect talks between the various Afghan factions, said Mohammadi.

He said the Iranian proposal was welcomed by OIC secretary-general Hamid Algabid and the representatives

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of Afghan mujahedeen. It was Algabid, he added, who suggested that Tehran should be the venue for the talks. Iran accepted the proposal in order to help find a solution to the fratricide in the neighbouring Islamic state.

Questioned by IRNA on PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's allegation that Iran was behind the unrest in Gaza, Mohammadi said 'Arafat is mistaken.

"It was predictable for us that the compromise deal with the Zionist regime would, on behalf of the Israelis, result in the massacre of Muslim Palestinians. "Now that 'Arafat is bogged down in a state of indecision, he has no way other than to attribute the protest movement to outside party", said the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The fact is, concluded Mohammadi, the Palestinians are well aware of their rights. They think that their ancestral land and the ordeal that they went through to attain their rights is being bargained away at such a low price.

Madrid Embassy Denies 'Arafat's Accusations

LD2611091694 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, Nov. 26, IRNA—The Iranian embassy in Madrid in a statement Friday categorically denied accusations leveled by PLO's Yasir 'Arafat against Iran and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran under no circumstances had been involved in internal affairs of Palestine.

The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Madrid deems it necessary to let the public be informed of certain points in connection with "baseless, unfounded and irresponsible" remarks that Yasir 'Arafat made against Iran on Thursday Nov. 24, the statement noted.

Palestinians' opposition to Yasir 'Arafat and his policies was nothing new and had been intensified since their rights had been downgraded, the statement read. Escalation of opposition as well as massacre of Palestinian by Palestinian are in fact consequences of the so-called peace process that 'Arafat has adhered to, the statement said adding that in order to cover up his impotence and conceal opposition to his policies, 'Arafat has been forced to resort to forging fabrications and accusations against Iran.

It noted that the Iranian authorities have repeatedly announced that 'Arafat and Zionist officials were fully aware of the fact that the current trend would not bear fruit since it ignored the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Therefore, it stressed, 'Arafat and the Zionists intended to wage vicious propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and by forging fabrications were attempting to pave the way to cover up their failure.

Meanwhile, a Tehran-based English-language daily Saturday wrote that " 'Arafat's remarks are nothing new on the international political scene."

'IRAN NEWS' wrote in its editorial that political leaders in the third world who always claim conspiracies by outside governments are the cause of the crises which actually arise from popular resistance in their countries.

"In his foreign policy 'Arafat has been careful in the past few years to make statements that would be pleasing to the Israeli leaders. And in fact the Israelis agreed to negotiate with 'Arafat only after this change of principles appeared in 'Arafat's method," the article noted. 'Arafat's problems began when his unjustifiable flexibility towards the Israeli occupiers of Palestine led to the erosion of popular support for al-Fatah and its leaders, the daily said.

"Statistical data published even by the opponents of the Islamic groups from inside the occupied territories are indicative of 'Arafat's declining popularity and the increasing influence of the Islamic groups," it added. 'Arafat's waning popularity is not his only problem today, the paper noted, adding that there are increasing signs that Israeli authorities and 'Arafat's western protectors have become aware of the erosion of 'Arafat's popularity.

The daily concluded by saying that any permanent settlement for the future of Palestine will have to be decided upon by the Palestinian people including those who live outside the occupied territories. " 'Arafat has no right to make compromises for the palestinians, as Marshall Petain did for the French."

'Arafat Said Controlled by 'Zionist Masters'

LD2811113794 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 28 Nov (IRNA)—A morning English-language daily here Monday [28 November] referred to the recent allegations made by Yasir 'Arafat against Iran and said that the Palestinians were fighting for their dignity, on the basis of their Islamic belief and do not need Iran to teach them to rise up against the oppression of self-appointed leaders.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote in its editorial that PLO's 'Arafat attempted to link home-grown uprising of the Palestinians to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Starting a propaganda campaign against Iran is one of the sinister approaches that 'Arafat has learned from his Zionist masters," the daily said.

"It is within the context of all these anxieties and self-doubts, that one can understand 'Arafat's unethical use of smoke screen: point the finger at Iran and all matters are solved," the paper said.

Describing 'Arafat as a sinking man who grabs unto straw, the paper noted "all accounts indicate that the man who was once affectionately called Abu-'Ammar is for all intents and purposes a persona non grata among his own people."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It stressed that if the opposition to 'Arafat and his cohorts has gained momentum it is because the PLO "no longer is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians."

Western governments might buy 'Arafat's unfounded claim, but the people of Palestine, who hold 'Arafat in contempt, are not fooled, said the paper.

Indeed 'Arafat's comment about the root of the Palestinian uprising reeks of consideration toward Palestinian Muslims, noted the paper adding that long before the Islamic republic has comeinto being, the valiant Muslims of Palestine fought for their faith. In fact the heroic struggle of Palestinian Muslims became a source of inspiration for a lot of Muslims in Iran to oppose the oppression of the shah," it added.

The paper warned 'Arafat in conclusion that next time that he thought about pointing the finger at Iran, he should "provide some evidence to show or else he is going to fall flat on his face as his masters the Zionists did recently when they accused Iran of bombing in London and Buenos Aires but were discredited because they could not prove their false claim."

Mohtashami Cited on Avenging Gaza Incident

NC2611095694 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Report From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with JAHAN-E ESLAM, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami condemned the shameless crimes of the compromising elements on the black Friday of 18 November. During this conversation, he said:

The incidents on the black Friday of 18 November 1994, which culminated in the merciless killing of defenseless Muslim worshipers and Palestinians at the hands of Israel's mercenaries has sounded a serious danger knell regarding the imminent and clear destiny of the Palestinian people and the Islamic intifadah in occupied Palestine. This is one of the links in the chain of plots by world arrogance led by the United States and international Zionism, the terrorist criminals.

The black Friday incident in Gaza once again revived the tragedy of the massacre of worshipers in the mosque of Abraham (peace be upon him) in al-Khalil [Hebron] and resurrected its memory in the minds of the people of the world.

The ill-omened triangle of Clinton, Rabin, and the compromising Arab-Palestinian leaders, the fifth column of the powers of world arrogance and the influential Zionist elements—all are efforts to annihilate and destroy Palestine and Palestinians as well as the Islamic intifadah which is the guarantee of a bright future of a popular government in Palestine. One of the aspects of this sinister triangle is the Gaza-Jericho accord which is aimed at suppressing the intifadah through their influential espionage agents.

The Islamic Resistance of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine should be vigilant and aim correctly at the real elements of crime and treachery. These crimes are being perpetrated directly by Clinton, Rabin, and Shamir at the hands of 'Arafat. The Gaza incident should therefore be avenged from the main terrorists, that is, Zionism and the criminal United States in the heart of Tel Aviv and all the areas in which there are Israeli and U.S. bases.

Naturally, 'Arafat and his cohorts are only a weak, contemptible, and tiny link in this plot—hatched by the main formulators—and who should be punished later on, after the others according to the chain of command. It is the offspring of Islam who were present in Zionist-occupied Palestine in 1947 and 1967 and who are still present all over the world who are obligated to carry out Islamic injunctions regarding war between Muslims and the infidel enemies from beginning to end. They should implement them in areas outside Gaza-Jericho in keeping with the necessary and important priorities and should refrain from any hasty reactions or any internal or impulsive clashes among themselves. Otherwise, in the event of a lack of suitable and swift measures, the enemy will succeed in attaining his objectives.

Basij Week: Celebration of Volunteer Forces

'Huge' Urban Exercises Conducted

LD2611135394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Huge urban exercises began today in most of the country's cities with the participation of 740 'Ashura battalions from the Basij Resistance Movement.

[Correspondent] On the fifth day of Basij Week and the anniversary of the issuance of a decree by Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, concerning the formation of a 20-million-strong army, today more than 740 'Ashura battalions from the Basij Resistance Movement began their huge urban exercises in many cities throughout the country.

More than 280,000 basijis are taking part in the exercises. They are stationed in streets, city centers, and basij bases. They will display some of their combat-defense capabilities.

The huge urban exercises of the 'Ashura battalions began a few minutes ago when the codename for the exercises was announced by the deputy commander of the [Islamic Republic] Guards Corps. Right now people from all over the country are witnessing the presence of the basij forces in city centers.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Maneuvers' Importance Viewed

LD2611182594 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Battalions of basij (volunteer corps) started their nationwide maneuvers here Saturday [26 November].

The opening ceremony which started with the code-word 'ya Zahra'—honour of Fatimah Zahra the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) [God's peace be upon her] whose birth anniversary the nation celebrated on Thursday—was attended by secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, Dr. Hasan Firuzabadi, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohsen Reza'i, and several other senior basij commanders.

Hoj. Ruhani said the holding of the nationwide maneuvers was important in view of the current circumstances. "Our struggle with global arrogance continues. Basijis should keep their presence in all arenas more than during the war years (1980-88 Iraqi aggression)," he stressed.

Ruhani, who is also the Majles (parliament) vice-speaker, called on basijis to preserve the security on the frontiers.

Forces Termed 'Sacred Sapling'

LD2711162994 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here Sunday [27 November] that reinforcing the Basijis (volunteer forces) as an armed popular force will make the greedy and antagonist enemies not even think of launching aggression on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking to a group of senior commanders of Basij forces, the president termed Basij as a sacred sapling planted by father of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeini in the most citicial juncture of the Iranian history.

He added that Basij has now turned into a large tree whose roots have spread to various cultural and social sectors of the society and the Basijis, now safeguarding Islamic values, have caused panic among enemies.

The president also lauded Basij's valuable role in its struggle against profiteering and its effective services to the flood-stricken people throughout the country.

Military Invasion Said Not Possible

LD2711161094 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Sunday [27 November] that Basij (mobilization) forces should counter the cultural, political and economic inroads of the enemies of Islam.

Speaking in a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry to mark the anniversary of establishment of Basij, he said that though there exists no possibilities of military invasion upon Iran, but, the enemies' cultural, political and economic inroads continue.

Velayati said that undoubtedly the best and the most popular [word indistinct] of the Islamic Republic of Iran was Basij.

Officials Comment on MKO 'Agents' Movements

LD2611113794 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Ring-leader of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) has summoned his agents in Europe and the U.S. to Iraq in order to get prepared for defence. In a statement broadcast by the MKO radio in the U.S., Mas'ud Rajavi said that the siege against the grouplet has become so tight in political and military dimensions and alleged that it was an expanded plot against them.

"Iran has prepared to launch an all-out attack against us," said Rajavi in his statement Wednesday [23 November], adding that all the MKO agents were urged to return to Iraq as quickly as possible in order to get prepared for defence.

Meanwhile, a security official reached by IRNA in Tehran said that only a handful of MKO agents had been dispatched from Iraq to Europe and the U.S. for the return of whom there was no need for such a statement. Such a call, the official noted, was an indication to the political deadlock the terrorist MKO was being faced with.

The security official recommended those handful MKO elements who have been dispatched to Europe and the U.S. to take the opportunity and lead a normal life by dissociating the grouplet given the dictatorial rule within the terrorist organization.

In another development, a political official also told IRNA that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully ready to provide the required facilities needed by the dissociated members of the grouplet. He stressed that those who have been deceived by the terrorist grouplet and wished to return to Iran could report to the Iranian embassies abroad so that the embassies could take necessary steps in this connection.

KDP Radio Says Kurdish Cleric Assassinated

LD2711141694 Tehran IRNA in English 1352 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, W. Azerbaijan Prov., Nov. 27, IRNA—Head of the Iraqi Endowment Office at

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Holer in Arbil who also ran Arbil Theological School, Mullah Abdullah Qadir was assassinated by unknown gunmen in Arbil on Saturday [26 November], Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) radio announced Sunday.

The radio said that instructors and students of the theological school condemned the act, calling on the self-proclaimed government of Kurdistan to identify and punish the agents responsible for the assassination.

Many Kurdish political circles in the region have voiced concern over political confrontations between parties and increase in number of assassinations.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Kurdish rulers have expressed satisfaction with normalization of the situation after months of house-to-house battle.

KDP and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leaders have expressed hope that a peace deal reached between the two sides would last until the year 2,000.

Leaders of the belligerent parties north of Iraq had earlier brokered ceasefire agreements, but each time they violated the truce after some time.

Opposition Forecasts New Round of Repression

NC2711090194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Station commentary: "Paving the Way for Carrying Out More Terrorist Actions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic regime's propaganda apparatus, which serves the misanthropic policies and actions of the regime's officials, is trying to use special ploys to portray the clerical regime's terrorist actions as justified, deterrent measures and to exonerate the regime.

On numerous occasions, prior to carrying out terrorist actions, the propaganda apparatus disseminated false reports and baseless claims in order to pave the way for the regime to carry out terrorist actions and other inhuman acts. For this reason, whenever the regime's propaganda apparatus disseminates unfounded remarks and unrealistic claims, the people immediately wonder what repressive program and terrorist activities the regime has in mind that its propaganda machine is preparing for.

Therefore, in the past few days, the regime's propaganda services disseminated some groundless allegations and fallacious rumors implying that a cache of weapons and incendiary materials had been found and confiscated in the western part of the country as a result of an investigation and that some people had been arrested.

Regardless of the veracity of this report, in view of the past policies of the regime and its propaganda apparatus, its dissemination heightens suspicion that the echelons of the Islamic regime intend to use this pretext to initiate another phase of repression and arrests. Discontented and dissident individuals will be arrested on the pretext of being arsonists or some similar charge and subsequently imprisoned or even executed.

Spreading such reports is merely the groundwork for the perpetration of other terrorist actions by the clerical regime's officials. Thus, right from the start, this deceitful plot of the regime should be exposed by all and conveyed to the people of Iran and the world, as well as to humanitarian circles and organizations.

In addition to the fact that this would be a deterrent, it would also further reveal the true nature of the regime and that—in light of the regime's past efforts to test the waters by disseminating such baseless, propagandist reports—these reports are nothing more than preparation for carrying out terrorist actions or initiating a new and more intense round of repression.

Deputy Views Correct Selection of Marja'iyat

NC2611114594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Report from the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our foreign enemies wish to show that a theological society cannot be modern. Unfortunately, this is also mentioned sometimes within the academic and university environment.

The foqaha [jurisconsults] cannot abandon the people to their fate and should exert much intensive effort in appointing the source of emulation for the people.

These remarks were made by Habib 'Askar-owladi, the deputy of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the Imam Khomeyni aid committee and secretary general of the Islamic Coalition Association [ICA] at its 18th session at the Martyrs of the ICA school. [passage omitted]

He said: Marja'iyat [the state of being a source of emulation] should not be imposed on the people in a political manner. He added: In the last few months of his life, the late imam proved to us that the choice of a source of emulation should not be a political one nor should it be imposed on people politically. The people should use the guidance of the expert foqaha in selecting their source of emulation.

Stressing the fact that the great 'ulema and high-positioned seminarians at the Qom theological school, the 'ulema, and the foqaha of the Tehran Militant Clergy will introduce the prominent ones who have the necessary qualifications for the marja'iyat to the people, 'Askar-owladi added: The foqaha and the elders of the seminary cannot abandon the people to their fate. They should provide them with enough understanding for the appointment of a source of emulation the same way as after the demise of the late imam and of His Eminence Ayatollah Kho'i, their eminences the late Ayatollah

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Golpayegani and Ayatollah Araki—may his shadow continue—were introduced to the people.

He added: At present there are many prominent personalities for marja'iyat in the seminaries. However, as far as my knowledge goes, the foqaha, the Qom theological seminary, and the Tehran Militant Clergy will introduce three or four of the prominent and qualified ones to the people to prevent any disruption in the marja'iyat. [passage omitted].

Opposition on Grand Ayatollah's Successor

NC2511142394 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0730 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an effective riposte to Khamene'i, the regime's spurious Vali-ye Faqih (supreme jurisconsult), the cleric Azeri-Qomi announced that after Araki, one of the Qom clerics (Mozhdeh), would be nominated the marja' (source of emulation).

Azeri-Qomi's remarks were published in yesterday's issue of RESALAT newspaper. He said: Cleric (Mozhdeh) is more qualified than those who are vying for the marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation].

Thus, cleric Azeri-Qomi put an end to the extensive lobbying and play acting by Khamene'i for the purpose of attaining the marja'iyat. So far, Khamene'i has been resorting to various tactics such as writing treatises and disseminating ridiculous fatwas, but even within the regime itself no one is paying any attention to him.

It is interesting that the cleric Azeri-Qomi is one of the ruling clerics who has displayed the greatest support for Khamene'i.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Views Nuclear Danger

MS2611095294 London THE TIMES in English 26 Nov 94 p 16

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Peregrine Hodson in Pakistan; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Benazir Bhutto starts an official visit to London tomorrow intent on convincing Western countries that Pakistan is a model of Islamic moderation and nuclear restraint which should be rewarded if she is to resist fundamentalist pressures.

The Oxford-educated Prime Minister is frustrated at the continued refusal of the Americans to release aid or deliver the F16 jet fighter bombers which have been paid for. Nor has Washington rewarded Islamabad for helping to oppose the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, for its role in worldwide peacekeeping or its moderation in the dispute with India over Kashmir.

"I can tell them, unless they review their policies towards nonproliferation, the 'fundos'—the fundamentalists—are going to go totally proliferationist," Miss Bhutto said.

"Pakistan, since 1990 has seen a cut-off of aid. It has still not detonated a nuclear device, or exported nuclear technology. It has shown respect. For what? For further criticism? Or for recognition and reward? There's a growing movement within Pakistan that says, 'if you're not getting anywhere for being good guys, then what's the point?"

The Prime Minister denied that there was pressure from the military establishment for such a move.

"I conducted a poll and 90 per cent thought Pakistan should detonate a nuclear device. It's a dangerous situation. Pakistan has showed restraint. This should be recognised and rewarded.

"If it isn't, the forces of moderation will be thrown to one side and the forces of extremism will take over. We have a lot of extremists around. We don't want another Bosnia."

Miss Bhutto said that the Pressler amendment which prevents export of the F16s is discriminatory and must be repealed, the West must stop insisting that Pakistan takes unilateral steps, and there must be an even-handed approach to her country and India.

"(Pakistan is) the only moderate Muslim country in the region. It's very important to support moderation in the Muslim world. Pakistan could be a role model. A policy which (looks) at just one issue out of context is detrimental. Even now, we have 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and nobody's helping us to bear that burden. We've even been told the little relief we are getting is being reduced by 60 per cent. We've been left with the problems of drugs and Kalashnikovs. A worldwide effort is needed to build housing in the safe parts of Afghanistan. Unless there's something to go back to, the people won't go back.

The United States, once a generous donor to Pakistan during the war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, has reduced its aid to a trickle. "We agreed to send a contingent to Haiti, under the US flag. But one must ask (whether) the Pressler amendment helped to achieve the aim of nuclear nonproliferation in the region? I think there's a consensus between the US government, Pakistan, and independent thinkers that, by invoking Pressler, the US has not succeeded in promoting nonproliferation. It became a veto in Indian hands. If you start having double standards, you're not going to have regional non-proliferation. While India is 'a counterbalance to China', what does America or any other country, expect Pakistan to do? Pakistan and India have fought three wars together. Pakistan is vulnerable. It must keep up with India."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Miss Bhutto called on India to take the first step towards peace negotiations by a significant reduction of troops in Kashmir, a repeal of the emergency laws in the area, and an end to the daily killing. "Forty to fifty people are killed there, every day. Holding talks against such a background is very difficult."

The problems caused by the confused British withdrawal from Kashmir 50 years ago still dominate relations between Pakistan and India, but the Prime Minister hopes that India will respond to the new realism around the world. "Look at South Africa. Whoever thought 'Arafat and Rabin would sit down and sign an agreement? Whoever thought that there would be a ceasefire in Ulster? All over the world, political leaders are realising that outdated policies of force and oppression do not pay."

A large percentage of Pakistan's budget is spent on defence, against the possible threat from India, with its long-range Agni ballistic missiles, and shorter-range Prithvi missiles over the border.

"Of course, if we didn't have tension with India, the priorities would change. The military itself is also sensitive to the idea that the economy must grow. And the economy will not grow if, like Russia, the country becomes a militarised state which only concentrates on developing military hardware, instead of developing the social and economic sectors of the country.

"But I can tell you, every single Pakistani would be prepared to sacrifice food, clothing, shelter—everything—if there was a threat to Pakistan, that necessitated our spending more."

Miss Bhutto has cut the budget deficit, reduced domestic borrowing and is liberalising the economy. Private investment banks have been set up and laws for privatisation have been passed. She wants Pakistan shares listed abroad.

During the interview, Aseefa, the Prime Minister's two-year-old daughter, arrived, kissed her mother and settled onto her lap.

"Last time, the drug barons used their money to fund a no-confidence campaign against my government. This time we've just refused to deal with them. We would rather lose political office, than lose the battle against drugs."

"The newspapers here in Pakistan have the freedom, but they don't have the responsibility. There's a frenzy built up. The president of our country, I, my husband, have all been accused of the most terrible misconduct of office. Unsubstantiated. Baseless. The newspapers write that the Prime Minister is an Indian agent. It's ridiculous. Or accusations of financial corruption. I believe in honesty and hard work and devotion. I came from a wealthy background and I never believed that money can buy happiness. It's what you do in your life—your character, your hard work—that counts.

"They made these charges against my husband. He was a businessman when he chose to marry me. If he had been the sort of man for whom money was the most important thing, he would never have married Benazir Bhutto. But he chose to sacrifice his political and business career, because he had this vision that I was a lady in distress, and he was a knight in shining armour to my rescue. Then he said 'Well, the lady's not so fragile.'

"In Pakistan, the print media is against every government. The only government they weren't against was Zia's. So I suppose its a good sign. If they're against a government, it means they're free.

"I am a Muslim woman, and I don't think its Islam which denies us our rights it is men. Whether they live in the East or the West, they somehow fear women, and want to keep them locked up behind bars. The core issues to the women's rights movement can be found in the Islamic message. But men do not adhere to that message."

However, the Islamic message is conspicuously ignored, or misapplied in some Pakistan police stations, where the police have frequently treated women rape victims as adulterers.

"Obviously rape is rape, and adultery is adultery, and Islam makes a distinction between both. But the laws that General Zia passed do not make the distinction. We have set up a commission on laws relating to women, which need amendment. It has parliamentarians from both sides of the political divide and some women activists. We hope they will show some concrete laws."

During her visit to Europe, the Prime Minister's main objective is to project the Kashmir issue and make the world more aware of the tension in the sub-continent. She also wants aid, trade and investment in Pakistan.

One year after becoming Prime Minister, what has been achieved? Domestically, her critics might say not enough. At home, her priorities have been energy and population, planning. Abroad, she is delighted by the success of her programme to attract international investment. "$5 billion (3.2 billion pounds) in direct internal investment, and contracts for $8 billion with the private sector in coal development. A staggering amount since, from 1971 to the present, total private investment has only been $2 billion dollars."

"The economic indicators with the World Bank and the IMF are pointing to Pakistan as a success story. We have shares, and we would like many more people to have an opportunity to buy them."

Miss Bhutto said the main priority for investment was the railways. "It takes 15 days for cargo to go from Karachi to Peshawar. With dualised track, it could be done in three. There's a need for a railway track from Pakistan, through west Afghanistan, into central Asia. And ports. We're also privatising power plants, and selling shares in banks and gas utilities. And we're

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

looking for a strategic buyer, a year and a half down the line, in the telecommunications sector."

During her visit to Britain, the Prime Minister will be signing a number of important deals, highlighting British investment in Paki-stan. These include a concession agreement with Lasmo Plc, worth 128 million pounds, for oil and gas exploration rights. ICI, which has been active in Pakistan for many years, is also signing a letter of intent to build a plant near Karachi worth 256 million pounds.

Miss Bhutto, who will meet the Queen and John Major, will be accompanied to London by a large delegation including Asif Ahmed Ali, the Foreign Minister, and Anwar Saifullah Khan, the Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister.

The visit's economic agenda will dwell on investment in the gas and electricity generation and distribution, a sector that has been the object of a major privatisation drive over recent months.

A Pakistani diplomat said yesterday that the Prime Minister would discuss Kashmir with British officials, but not expect any change of stance. London, while condemning human rights abuses in the Kashmir valley, control of which is divided between Islamabad and India, favours direct talks between the two countries to resolve the dispute. Pakistan, on the other hand, has for several years called for the matter be dealt with on an international level. Britain has also called for the ending of any military support for the Kashmiri militant separatists fighting Indian rule allegedly provided from the Pakistani-controlled zone, a claim that is denied by Islamabad.

Worries about the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Pakistan s role in United Nations peacekeeping forces around the globe are also expected to be raised during the visit. Pakistan has 10,000 soldiers deployed in peacekeeping operations, including Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, making it the world's largest single provider of UN troops.

UN forces have become exposed in the latest surge of fighting, in which Bosnian Serb troops this week attacked the UN "safe haven" of Bihac, where about 1,000 Bangladeshi "blue helmet" soldiers were deployed.

On Thursday, Miss Bhutto will visit Bradford, where she will meet members of the city's large Pakistani community.

British investors already have a major stake in Pakistan, representing 15 per cent of all foreign investment, ahead of Japan and second only to the United States.

Bilateral trade is slightly tilted in Britain's favour. Its exports to Pakistan last year were worth 338 million pounds; mainly industrial goods, power equipment and medical and pharmaceutical products. Imports were 324 million pounds, comprising textiles and agricultural products.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Responds To Cease-fire Offer

BK2811131194 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The People's Alliance government has received a positive response from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] command for the cessation of hostilities after the government agreed to investigate the killing of Lieutenant Colonel Chinnathambi Padmanathan by troops at (Kokkurthurai) during the unilateral cease-fire announced by the LTTE, informed sources said.

The government's decision to investigate the killing of LTTE's senior intelligence wing leader was initiated after the LTTE urged the government to hold a court of inquiry into this incident. Sources said the LTTE had sent a message to the government seeking an inquiry just after the president sent a message expressing her desire to resume negotiations suspended after the assassination of UNP [United National Party] presidential election candidate, Gamini Dissanayake. The government has requested the LTTE to declare a week's cease-fire for which the government would reciprocate by announcing a two-week long cease-fire, the sources said. The final message from the LTTE was received by the government over the weekend. The LTTE in its message on Friday [25 November] had requested details of how the cessation of hostilities would be observed by both parties by both declaring demilitarized zones in no man's land in the forward defense lines of the security forces, informed sources said.

LTTE Releases Two Additional Policemen

BK2811131394 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1005 GMT 28 Nov 94

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 28 Nov—Two more policemen who were being held prisoner by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Jaffna since June 1990, have been released. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Harumunige Somaratne and K.M. Ranjan, who are sick and described as medical cases, were handed over to the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] in Jaffna Sunday [27 November].

The two freed policemen were being taken this evening by the freighter M.V. [motor vessel] Kumana from the northeastern Jaffna port of Point Pedro to the port of Kankesanthurai which is under military control and from there to the military base at Palaly. They will be flown to Colombo on board a Sri Lanka Air Force aircraft tomorrow.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The LTTE released 10 of 9 [figures as published] policemen held prisoner on 3rd September this year, following President Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga who was then prime minister, announcing that the People's Alliance government was partially lifting the economic embargo on Jaffna and removing restrictions on 28 essential items and stating that she hoped that LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, would respond positively.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.